

TOEFL Worksheet: Using Transition Adverbs

There are a number of different ways to use the following worksheet, but the basic idea is that each sentence can be followed up on with a student-generated sentence that uses one of the given transition adverbs.

For example, the first sentence, “**I can’t swim very well,**” can be followed by “**Regardless,** I love to spend time on the beach” or “**That is,** I never really learned.”

Here are a few suggestions for logistics:

As a spoken, pair exercise:

- The first student chooses any one adverb from the list. Their partner then chooses a sentence to build off and gives one sentence that follows logically. Each sentence on the sheet may be used only twice. They take turns choosing adverbs and creating sentences until all the adverbs have been used.
- Using the first sentence on the sheet, the first student selects an adverb from the set and follows the given sentence with their own sentence, using their chosen adverb. Their partner then continues on the same topic with one more sentence using another adverb. Each time a sentence is spoken, the adverb used may not be repeated in a future sentence on the same topic. This continues, alternating, until neither partner can think of logical ways to continue with the adverbs left available. They then move on to the next sentence on the paper to start a new round. At that point, all adverbs are once again free to be used.

As a solo writing exercise:

- After each sentence, write two sentences that might logically follow, using one of the listed adverbs in each new sentence.

Pro-tips

- Before starting the exercise, elicit which adverbs are more strictly for written or spoken English (formal or informal) and which sentences are more likely to be from spoken English.
- All of the given transitions can be categorized as one of the following. Have students label them before or after the exercise.
 - Contrast
 - Comparison
 - Continuation
 - Explanation
 - Consequence
 - Generalization



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I can't swim very well.

The elephant's skin is extremely thick.

CDs will soon become completely obsolete.

Nationalism has been growing stronger in the south of the country.

Every year, thousands take the risk of starting their own businesses.

Earlier this morning, I stepped on an avocado.

Abraham Lincoln was shot and killed.

Many everyday chemicals we use to clean our homes are highly toxic.

There are a number of reasons to stop using oil.

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| 1. Regardless, | 7. However, | 13. Furthermore, |
| 2. Besides, | 8. In addition, | 14. As a result, |
| 3. Likewise, | 9. For instance, | 15. What's more, |
| 4. For example, | 10. Generally, | 16. Meanwhile, |
| 5. Similarly, | 11. Consequently, | 17. In other words, |
| 6. Nevertheless, | 12. That is, | 18. Therefore, |