

LESSON

Transitional Words and Phrases

30

THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN BODY



★ **Transitional words** are the links and bridges between related statements or ideas in a paragraph. These links make it easier for the reader to follow the flow of thought from sentence to sentence. Transitional words are usually placed at the beginning of a sentence.

The choice of transitional words often depends on the type of organization used in the paragraph.

Type of Organization	Transitional Words
Chronological	first, second, next, in the past, today
Spatial	next to, above, below, beyond
Compare and contrast	likewise, similarly, compared to, on the other hand
Cause and effect	as a result, therefore, one cause of, another effect of
Order of importance	most important, less important

Many other words and phrases can be used to show the relationship between statements and ideas. Here are just a few:

for example evidently actually overall
since then in fact generally also

A Read each group of sentences. Look for words that help to show the relationship between pieces of information or ideas. Write these transitional words and phrases on the line.

1. The lungs are an important part of the respiratory system. They have two main jobs to do. First, they get oxygen from the air into the bloodstream. Second, they remove waste gas, or carbon dioxide.

2. The lungs are filled with many blood vessels. As a result, they have a pinkish red color. They also contain a branching system of air-filled tubes, so they feel spongy.

3. Each lung is divided into parts called lobes. The right lung has three lobes. The left lung, on the other hand, has two to allow room for the heart.

B Write the phrase that best completes each sentence.

For example, In fact, Also, The most important

1. There are many reasons to run. _____ one is that it is good for your heart.
2. Running improves circulation. _____ it can help you lose weight.
3. Runners need carbohydrates. _____ they might eat spaghetti the night before a race.
4. Nikki's heart rate was in the normal range. _____ it was 72 beats per minute.

C Add appropriate transition words from the list to each paragraph. On the line before the paragraph, note whether the paragraph uses chronological (C), spatial (S), or cause-and-effect (CE) organization.

below first then another result
left right therefore finally

_____ 1. Zachary decided to use the step machine at the fitness center.
_____ he read the instructions on the control panel.
_____ he punched in his weight and height. _____ he selected the level of difficulty from the three choices: city stroll, cross-country, or Mount Everest!

_____ 2. Asthma is a breathing problem. It occurs when smooth muscle fibers around the bronchioles (the smallest tubes in the lungs) contract. This causes the airways to narrow. _____ the person feels out of breath.
_____ is wheezing or coughing episodes.

_____ 3. Nat's science fair project is on the respiratory system. _____ the title, "Breathe Easy," is a diagram of the lungs. On the _____ panel are color photographs of a healthy lung and a cancerous lung. On the _____ panel is a graph that compares the lung capacities of a marathon runner and an average person.