

Transitional Words and Writing the First Draft

You organize the order of incidents in a story by using transitions. These are words and phrases that help to connect the events in the story. Here is a list of transitions and phrases that are often used in paragraphs.

Word	Meaning	Example	Word	Meaning	Example
then	soon	in the middle of	after	next	later
afterwards	by the time	finally	when	at the end	

Write your own

That is, the order of the incidents in the story is organized. However, there is one more thing. For example, you might use a transitional word like "then" before the first incident, before the second incident, before the third incident, and so on. However, you might also use a transitional word and phrase in the middle of a paragraph, as in the following example.

Read the following narrative paragraph.

First, I walked a mile to the store. Then, I bought a loaf of bread, a dozen eggs, and a quart of milk. The store was very busy, and I had to wait a long time for the cashier to check out. After I paid for my groceries, I went to the counter to get my change. I was very happy to see that I had enough money left over to buy a new book. Finally, I went home and read the book.