ability to remember every part of our lives, to have searchability capabilities, and
to have complete control over what we want to remember and to be able to
retrieve it with what they call "Total Recall." (4) Beginning in 1998, with the
utilization of a camera he wore, Bell began the implementation of recording,
scanning, and storing everything and didn't exclude anything he neither heard
nor saw, and he had the determination to achieve the ability to make it all
searchable. (5) There will be a change in what it means to be human by this ability
to access all aspects of our past, even the health of our bodies. (6) The capability
to digitally record more and more of our lives, the advantages that allow massive
amounts of storage inexpensively, and highly sophisticated technologies for the
enablement of searching, analyzing, and presenting all kinds of data are the three
aspects of technology that will make a reality of Total Recall.

Exercise 19.2: Pattern Practice

Look back through this chapter at the patterns for the changes you suggested in
Exercise 19.1. Use those patterns to revise the paragraph in Exercise 19.1 so that
it is clearer.

20

Transitions

Transitions are words and phrases that build bridges between sentences,
parts of sentences, and paragraphs. These bridges show relationships and help
blend sentences together smoothly. Several types of transitions are illustrated
in this chapter.

20a Repetition of a Key Term or Phrase

Among the recent food fads sweeping America is the interest in exotic
foods. While not everyone can agree on what exotic foods are, most of us
like the idea of trying something new and different.

20b Synonyms

Because the repetition of a key word or phrase can become boring, use a
synonym (a word or phrase having essentially the same meaning) to add
variety and to avoid repeating.

One food many Americans are not inclined to try is brains. A Gallup poll
found that 41 percent of the people who responded said they would never
eat brains. Three years later, the percentage of those who wouldn’t touch animals’ gray matter had risen to 49 percent.

20c PRONOUNS

Pronouns such as he, she, it, we, and they are useful when you want to refer to something mentioned previously. Similarly, this, that, these, and those can be used as links.

In addition to brains, there are many other foods that some Americans now find more distasteful than they did several years ago. For example, more people now say they would never eat liver, rabbit, pigs’ feet, or beef kidneys than said so three years ago. Even restaurant workers who are exposed to these delicacies aren’t always wild about them.

20d TRANSITIONAL WORDS AND PHRASES

English has a huge storehouse of words and phrases that cue the reader to relationships between sentences. Without these cues, the reader may be momentarily puzzled or unsure of how sentences relate to each other. For example, read these two sentences:

Jules is a skilled poet. He is pursuing a degree in electrical engineering.

If it took you a moment to see the connection, try reading the same two sentences with a transitional word added:

Jules is a skilled poet. However, he is pursuing a degree in electrical engineering.

The word however signals that the second sentence contradicts or contrasts with the first sentence. Read the following:

The state government was determined not to raise taxes. Therefore, . . .

As soon as you reached the word therefore, you knew that some consequence or result would follow.

The transitions listed in the following table are grouped according to the categories of relationships they show.
TRANSITIONS

Adding  
and, besides, in addition, also, too, moreover, further, furthermore, next, first, second, third, finally, last, again, and then, likewise, similarly

Comparing  
similarly, likewise, in like manner, at the same time, in the same way

Contrasting  
but, yet, however, still, nevertheless, on the other hand, on the contrary, in contrast, conversely, in another sense, instead, rather, notwithstanding, though, whereas, after all, although

Emphasizing  
indeed, in fact, above all, add to this, and also, even more, in any event, in other words, that is, obviously

Ending  
after all, finally, in sum, for these reasons

Giving examples  
for example, for instance, to illustrate, that is, namely, specifically

Pointing to cause and effect, proof, or conclusions  
thus, therefore, consequently, because of this, hence, as a result, then, so, accordingly

Showing place or direction  
over, above, inside, next to, underneath, to the left, to the right, just behind, beyond, in the distance

Showing time  
meanwhile, soon, later, afterward, now, in the past, then, next, before, during, while, finally, after this, at last, since then, presently, temporarily, after a short time, at the same time, in the meantime

Summarizing  
to sum up, in brief, on the whole, has been noted, in conclusion, that is, finally, as has been said, in general, to recapitulate, to conclude, in other words

Hint

USING AND AND BUT AS TRANSITIONS

Some people prefer not to begin a sentence with the word and or but. Others think these are useful words to achieve variety and smooth transitions between sentences.

Although jet lag is a nuisance for travelers, it can be a disaster for flight crews. But flight crews can reduce the effects of jet lag by modifying their sleep patterns. And airlines are recognizing the need for naps between flights.
**TRANSITIONS IN AND BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS**

1. Transitions Between Sentences in a Paragraph

Your paragraphs are more easily understood when you show how every sentence in the paragraph is connected to the whole. As the following example shows, you can use repetition, synonyms, pronouns, and transitional words and phrases to signal the connections.

- □ = repetition
- ○ = pronouns
- □ = synonyms
- □ = transitional words and phrases

While drilling into Greenland's layers of ice, scientists recently pulled up evidence from the last ice age showing that the island's climate underwent extreme shifts within a year or two. This unexpected finding is based on evidence from ice cores that the climate often shifted from glacial to warmer weather in just a few years. In addition, other evidence indicates that the annual amount of snow accumulation also changed abruptly at the same time. As the climate went from cold to warm, the amount of snowfall jumped abruptly by as much as 100 percent. This change happened because more snow falls during warmer periods when the atmosphere holds more water. From this evidence, scientists therefore conclude that warming and cooling of the earth may be able to occur much faster than had been previously thought. And more recent findings prove this conclusion as Greenland's layers of ice are melting much faster than previously predicted and are thus likely to contribute significantly to a more rapid rise in ocean levels than had previously been predicted.
2. Transitions Between Paragraphs

As you start a new paragraph, you should also show the link to the previous paragraph, and an effective place to do this is in the first sentence of the new paragraph. Try the following strategies for including transitions between paragraphs.

- **Repetition**  One way to make a connection is to reach back to the previous paragraph, referring to an element there in the beginning of your next paragraph. Some writers think of this as using a hook. They "hook" an element from above and bring it down—through the use of repetition—to the next paragraph, providing a connecting thread of ideas.

  Suppose your paper discusses the changing role of women in combat. In a paragraph on the history of women's roles in warfare, you conclude with the example of Harriet Tubman, an African American who led scouting raids into enemy territory during the Civil War. In the next paragraph, you want to move to new roles for women in modern combat. Your opening sentence can "hook" the older use of women as scouts and tie that to their new role as officers and soldiers on the ground in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan:

  Whereas a few women served in more limited roles as scouts in previous wars, in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, women have become integrated into the military as officers and members of ground troops.

- **Transitional Words**  Because every paragraph moves your paper forward, you can use the first sentence to point your readers in the direction of your whole essay. Think of the first sentence of every paragraph as being like a road sign, indicating to your readers where they are headed.

  For example, suppose that your next paragraph in a paper on campaign reform presents a second reason in your argument against allowing large personal contributions to political candidates. Use a transitional word or phrase to show that you are building a list of arguments:

  Another reason political candidates should not receive large personal contributions is . . .

  [These underlined words show that the writer is adding another element.]

  Or suppose that your next paragraph is going to acknowledge that there are also arguments for the opposing side in this topic.
You would then be going in the opposite direction or contrasting one side against the other.

Not everyone, however, is in favor of making personal contributions to candidates illegal. Those who want to continue the practice argue that...

[These underlined words signal a turn in the opposite direction.]

**Exercise 20.1: Proofreading Practice**

*Read the following paragraph, and list the transitions. Categorize them by putting the appropriate numbers near the words you mark:*

1. Repetition of key term or phrase
2. Synonyms
3. Pronouns
4. Transitional words or phrases

(1) The *Titanic*, the largest ocean liner of its time, set sail for New York in April 1912, and it had a grand send-off as it left the harbor. (2) But this ship never finished its voyage. (3) It hit an enormous iceberg halfway through the trip and caused the 2,227 passengers to head for the lifeboats. (4) Then, within hours, the mammoth vessel plunged beneath the icy Atlantic Ocean. (5) Next, the *Titanic* broke in two and fell to the bottom of the ocean. (6) It was seen by people in other ships only from a distance and was untouched until 1986, when a team of researchers entered the boat and explored it. (7) Eventually, a small piece of steel brought back from one of the expeditions was examined to determine whether this material played a part in the sinking of the ship. (8) Later, researchers tried raising a portion of the ship from the bottom of the ocean, but it was too heavy and fell beneath the water once again. (9) In time, the vessel will disintegrate, but the fascination with the *Titanic* will remain.

**Exercise 20.2: Proofreading Practice**

*The connections or transitional links are missing in the sample paragraph but have been added in the revised version. Revise the practice paragraph, adding transitions where they are needed.*

**Sample Paragraph**

I like autumn. Autumn is a sad time of year. The leaves turn to brilliant yellow and red. The weather is mild. I can't help thinking ahead to the coming of winter. Winter will bring snowstorms, slippery roads, and icy fingers. In winter the wind chill factor can make it dangerous to be outside. I find winter unpleasant. In autumn I can't help thinking ahead to winter's arrival. I am sad when I think that winter is coming.
Sample Paragraph (Revised)

Although I like autumn, it is a sad time of year. Of course, the leaves turn to brilliant yellow and red, and the weather is mild. Still, I can't help thinking ahead to the coming of winter with its snowstorms, slippery roads, and icy fingers. Moreover, in winter the wind chill factor can make it dangerous to be outside. Because I find these things unpleasant, in autumn I can't help thinking ahead to winter's arrival. Truly, I am sad when I think that winter is coming.

Practice Paragraph

Caring for houseplants requires some basic knowledge about plants. Every plant should be watered regularly. The plant's leaves should be cleaned. Spring and summer bring a special time of growth. The plant can be fertilized then. The plant can be repotted. The diameter of the new pot should be only two inches larger than the pot the plant is presently in. Some plants can be put outside in summer. Some plants cannot be put outside. If you are familiar with basic requirements for houseplants, you will have healthy plants.

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21a  COMBINING SENTENCES

- You can combine two sentences (or independent clauses) into one longer sentence.

  Doonesbury cartoons laugh at contemporary politicians, but the victims of the satire probably don't read the cartoon strip.

- You can combine the subjects of two independent clauses in one sentence when the verb applies to both clauses.

  Original: During the flood, the Wabash River overflowed its banks. Wildcat Creek did the same.
  
  Revised: During the flood, the Wabash River and Wildcat Creek overflowed their banks.