

Transitions Take Flight

Analyze how an informational model connects sections and ideas.

11.T.SS.1.c "Guide the audience through texts using varied transitions that are appropriate to the mode of communication, including between paragraphs and text sections, enhancing cohesion. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every word or phrase that signals a shift, addition, example, result, or contrast. Circle the transition that opens each section after the first, then number the three sections to trace the text's path.

A Falcon's Return

- ① **THE DECLINE.** A peregrine falcon may dive toward prey at speeds that can exceed 200 miles per hour. Yet this predator nearly vanished from much of the United States during the mid-twentieth century. The pesticide DDT accumulated in prey animals and caused many falcons to lay eggs with thin shells. Consequently, nests often failed before chicks could hatch. By 1970, peregrines had disappeared as breeding birds from much of the eastern United States. This environmental problem did not affect only one species. Instead, it revealed how a chemical introduced for pest control could move through an entire food web.
- ② **THE RESPONSE.** In response, scientists, conservation groups, and government agencies combined several strategies. The United States banned most uses of DDT in 1972, removing a major source of harm. Meanwhile, biologists bred peregrines in captivity and released young birds at suitable sites. For example, some release teams placed chicks in artificial nests on tall buildings, where adults could later establish urban territories. These actions addressed different parts of the problem: the ban improved environmental conditions, while releases increased the number of birds. Equally important, researchers monitored nesting pairs, so they could measure whether the population was recovering.

- ③ **THE RETURN.** As a result of these connected efforts, peregrine numbers rose over several decades. In 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the American peregrine falcon from the federal endangered species list. However, recovery did not mean that every risk had ended. Today, volunteers and biologists still track nests, protect some breeding sites, and study hazards such as collisions with buildings. More broadly, the falcon's return links a past policy decision to a continuing responsibility. The story moves from chemical contamination to coordinated action and, finally, to long-term stewardship.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- ① Copy the transition that connects THE DECLINE to THE RESPONSE. What relationship does it show between the two sections?

- ② How does “Meanwhile” help the audience understand the captive-breeding work in THE RESPONSE?

- ③ What information does “For example” introduce, and why is that transition useful there?

- ④ Why does the writer begin a later sentence with “However” after explaining that peregrine numbers rose?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-paragraph informational mini-text, 120 to 160 words, about a problem at school and a possible response. Use a different transition to open each paragraph and at least two additional transitions within the paragraphs to connect ideas clearly.

Write three connected paragraphs

Use a different transition at each paragraph opening and at least two more within the paragraphs. Leave visible paragraph breaks.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every word or phrase that signals a shift, addition, example, result, or contrast. Circle the transition that opens each section after the first, then number the three sections to trace the text's path. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the transition that connects THE DECLINE to THE RESPONSE. What relationship does it show between the two sections?	"In response," It shows that the actions in the second section address the problem explained in the first section.
2	How does "Meanwhile" help the audience understand the captive-breeding work in THE RESPONSE?	It introduces captive breeding and releases as another part of the broader recovery effort, alongside removing DDT as a source of harm.
3	What information does "For example" introduce, and why is that transition useful there?	It introduces the specific example of placing chicks in artificial nests on tall buildings. The transition moves from the general strategy of releases to a concrete illustration.
4	Why does the writer begin a later sentence with "However" after explaining that peregrine numbers rose?	"However" signals a contrast: the population recovered, but risks to peregrines still remained.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To begin, at many schools, unopened milk cartons and untouched fruit leave the cafeteria in trash bins. This waste costs money and sends usable food to landfills. First, a student council could measure what is discarded for one week. The count would identify which items students take and which items need a different serving plan.

Next, cafeteria staff could offer fruit in a share basket, following local food-safety rules, so students could choose an item later. Meanwhile, the school could post the weekly waste total near the serving line. Because students would see their results, the display could make waste more concrete.

Finally, after a month, the council could compare the new total with its first count. If less food is discarded, the school could continue the plan. On the other hand, if waste remains high, students could survey classmates about portions and choices. Thus, the project would move from evidence to action and then to revision.

Accept quoted transition phrases or accurate explanations of how each phrase connects ideas. For the original writing, look for three coherent paragraphs, 120 to 160 words, paragraph-opening transitions, and at least two additional transitions that clarify relationships among ideas. Print the sample as three visibly separate paragraphs beginning To begin, Next and Finally. The model also uses within-paragraph transitions such as Meanwhile and On the other hand. Recovery history: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, August 20, 1999 delisting announcement. Speed and continuing monitoring: National Park Service, Peregrine Falcons at Arches. Artificial nest-site releases: New York State DEC, Peregrine Falcon.