

Name:

Date:

Hour:

**A Trio of Revising Tools:**  
***Adding Transition Words, Curing Gottitus, and Using Precise Adjectives***

**Part 1: Adding Transition Words**

- **Transition words are phrases or words that connect one idea to the next.** Different transition words have different functions. In the personal narrative, transition words can help make the sequence of events clear.
- **The Polar Bear Sequencing Activity:** *The following sentences are from the same paragraph, but are not in order. Number the sentences in the correct order that makes the most sense. Underline the key phrases and words that help you decide.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Later, when hunting season is over and the weather turns very cold, the polar bears hibernate deep under the snow.

\_\_\_\_\_ Unfortunately for the polar bears, seals hear very well, and usually the polar bears cannot sneak up on them.

\_\_\_\_\_ They live in the Arctic, where their unusually thick fur and layer of blubber protect them from the icy winds and below-zero temperatures.

\_\_\_\_\_ During their summer hunting season, polar bears creep across the snow, silent as cats, hoping to capture an unsuspecting seal—their favorite meal.

\_\_\_\_\_ Polar bears are among the largest mammals on earth.

\_\_\_\_\_ Polar bears are also kept warm by their black skin that absorbs sunlight.

- **Partner Talk:** Choose one of the following questions to discuss with your partner.
  - Why are transition words important in writing? Give at least one example from the polar bear activity to support your answer.
  - Why is it important to have clear antecedents for pronouns (like *it*) and for demonstrative adjectives (like *this/that*)? Give at least one example from the polar bear activity to support your answer.
- **Application:** Add **at least three** transition words/phrases to your personal narrative.

## Transitions Words

### **To show time:**

about	first	until	soon	then	after	second
meanwhile	later	next	at	third	tomorrow	before
immediately	as soon as	during	yesterday	next week	finally	when
today	afterward	prior to	in the meantime			

### **To compare two things (show similarities):**

also	like	similarly	likewise	as	in the same way
------	------	-----------	----------	----	-----------------

### **To contrast things (show differences):**

but	yet	although	otherwise	however	counter to
still	even though	as opposed	conversely	nevertheless	even so
on the other hand		in the meantime		on the contrary	

### **To emphasize a point:**

again	indeed	truly	in fact	for this reason
to repeat	to emphasize	with this in mind		

### **To clarify:**

that is	put another way	to clarify
in other words	stated differently	for instance

### **To add information:**

again	and	too	next	also
besides	likewise	finally	additionally	equally
important	moreover	as well	in addition	for example
further	together with	another	for instance	furthermore
along with		to illustrate		

### **To show location:**

above	among	beneath	in front of	on top of	amid
across	around	beside	inside	outside	below
against	away from	between	into	over	down
along	back of	beyond	near	throughout	onto
alongside	behind	by	off	to the right	under

### **To conclude or summarize:**

as a result	consequently	accordingly	in short	finally	thus
due to	to sum up	in conclusion	therefore	in summary	all in all
after considering		for this reason	because of this	it follows that	so

## Part 2: Curing Gottitus

- **Gottitus = An overuse of generic verbs, such as got.** Writing well requires the writer to choose words well, both in choosing vivid and exact words and avoiding repetition. This type of writing helps bring out your personality on your paper, also known as writing “style”.
- **Cure the Gottitus!** Revise each sentence by inserting a new verb. Do not reconstruct the sentence, and do not use a substitute verb more than once — that is, select a different one for each sentence to replace the dull verb emphasized in capital letters. Possible choices are listed in the word bank below.

Word Bank					
bought	receive	caught	fell	convince	return
earn	arose	prepare	muster	make	fix
was	arrive	find	purchase	understand	check
enter	spill	win	solicit	obtain	dribble

1. \_\_\_\_\_ He GOT UP at seven.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ He GOT his own breakfast.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ He GOT syrup on his vest.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ He GOT TO school ten minutes late.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ He GOT reprimanded from the principal.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ He tried to GET what they were saying about him.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ He GOT behind in his classes.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ He tried to GET some other students to help him.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ He could not GET any help.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ He GOT ready to go out at noon.

- **Application:** Revise **at least three** verbs in your personal narrative, using a thesaurus as needed.

### Part 3: Using Precise Adjectives (also known as gooditis)

- **Gooditis = An overuse of generic adjectives, such as good.** You have spent a considerable amount of time revising your paper to include descriptive and sensory details. Make sure those details pop by using precise adjectives.
- **Precise Adjectives – An Example**

**Generic Adjectives:** Carson told the **pretty** girl next to him in English class a joke. She thought it was **good**, so she gave a **little** laugh. Then, they both returned to completing their essays. Carson and the girl knew that they had to write **well** to get a **good** grade.

**Precise Adjectives:** Carson told the **gorgeous** girl next to him in English class a joke. She thought it was **amusing**, so she gave a **modest** laugh. Then, they both returned to completing their essays. Carson and the girl knew that they had to write **skillfully** to get a **satisfactory** grade.

- **Your Turn** – Revise the adjectives in bold to be more vivid and precise. Use a dictionary if needed.

**Generic Adjectives:** The Colemans bought a **big** new house. They painted the living room in **bright** colors and moved in some **nice** furniture. They replaced the **old** curtains and purchased a **large** coffee table. Now it looks **good** and they're ready to begin enjoying their new home.

**Your Improved Version:** The Colemans bought a \_\_\_\_\_ new house. They painted the living room in \_\_\_\_\_ colors and moved in some \_\_\_\_\_ furniture. They replaced the \_\_\_\_\_ curtains and purchased a \_\_\_\_\_ coffee table. Now it looks \_\_\_\_\_ and they're ready to begin enjoying their new home.

- **Application:** Revise **at least three** adjectives in your personal narrative, using a thesaurus as needed.

**Polar Bear Sequence Activity Answer Key: 6, 5, 2, 4, 1, 3**

- 1 **Polar bears** (*the antecedent for the “they” in the next sentence*) are among the largest mammals on earth.
- 2 **They** (*refers to the polar bears in the previous sentence*) live in the Arctic, where their unusually thick fur and layer of blubber protect them from the icy winds and below-zero temperatures.
- 3 Polar bears are **also** (*indicates that there were other things mentioned in the previous sentence, such as fur and blubber, that keep the polar bears warm*) kept warm by their black skin that absorbs sunlight.
- 4 **During their summer hunting season** (*This transition phrase indicates a change in discussion from how polar bears keep warm to how they hunt seal*), **polar bears creep across the snow, silent as cats,** (*discussion on this action is continued in the next sentence*) **hoping to capture an unsuspecting seal—their favorite meal** (*discussion on seals is continued in the next sentence*).
- 5 **Unfortunately** (*this transition word indicates subject material in the previous sentence that there is a negative commentary for in this sentence*) for the polar bears, **seals** (*suggest that seals were part of the subject matter in the previous sentence*) **hear very well, and usually the polar bears cannot sneak up on them** (*discussion on this action was first addressed in the previous sentence*).
- 6 **Later, when hunting season is over** (*suggests that hunting season was discussed in the previous sentences*) and the weather turns very cold, the polar bears hibernate deep under the snow.