TRANSITION WORDS

Transition words are used to link sentences and ideas. If you use them correctly, your writing will be easier to understand and more mature. Look for transitions when you are reading the newspaper, a magazine, or a book. Notice how other writers have used these words, then try to use them yourself in your own writing.

Directions: For practice, use the transitions at the right in the sentences at the left. In each group, use a transition only once. Read each sentence carefully so that you can choose an appropriate transition. Capitalize when necessary.

1. I would like to see you tomorrow, ______________ let’s have lunch together. for example
2. My sister loves to eat, ______________ I don’t care much about food. finally
3. When you begin an exercise program, you must be careful not to overdo it. but
   My father, ______________, hurt his back by exercising too hard without warming up first.
   so
4. She had looked everywhere for a job; ______________, she was called for an interview. beyond to the left
   ______________, she was called for an interview. to the left
5. She had been studying for hours. ______________, she hoped to do well on the test. third
   nevertheless
6. First, Mary went to the store. ______________, she went to visit her mother. however
7. I would like to read many books; ______________, I don’t seem to have enough time to read. then
   ______________, I don’t seem to have enough time to read. then
8. John ate and ate; ______________, he never gained weight. for instance
9. Joe ate too fast. ______________, he had indigestion. therefore
10. He stayed up too late last night; ______________, he slept until noon. meanwhile
11. I want you to buy milk, eggs, and fruit juice; ______________,
    I want you to be sure to get cereal and ice cream. furthermore
12. I was concentrating on my homework. ______________,
    the soup boiled over. third in fact
13. ______________, I will boil the water. Second, I will brew the tea,
    and ______________, I will serve it. until then consequently
14. Joe, ______________, happens to be my best friend. in contrast
15. Jane studies all the time; ______________, Billy never studies.

Using Transitions
Directions: Create an original sentence or pair of sentences using the transition indicated.

1. for example

2. furthermore

3. nevertheless

4. meanwhile

5. however

6. as a result

7. without a doubt

8. consequently