

*the most important (adjective)*  
The **principal** ingredient in bread is flour.

<b>principal</b>	<b>principle</b>
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*a fundamental truth; a value*  
The students tested the **principle** of gravity.

*used in comparisons*  
This class is harder **than** the last one.

<b>than</b>	<b>then</b>
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*refers to time, meaning "soon, after, also, next"*  
We had dinner and **then** went out for ice cream.

*past tense of "to throw"*  
She accidentally **threw** away the postcard.

<b>threw</b>	<b>through</b>
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*by means of*  
He aced that paper **through** sheer hard work.  
*finished*  
I'll be in Baltimore before the day is **through**.  
*into or out of*  
Somehow, we will make it **through** this.

*the possessive form of "they"*  
I went to **their** dorm.

*combination of "they" and "are"*  
**They're** doing homework right now.

*at a certain place*  
Please, leave the book over **there**.

<b>their</b>	<b>to</b>
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*shows direction*  
I went **to** school there.

<b>they're</b>	<b>two</b>
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*used in comparisons*  
The score is ten **to** eight.

<b>there</b>	<b>too</b>
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*until*  
They danced from midnight **to** sunrise.  
*before*  
I'll be there at ten **to** eight.

*refers to something*  
I bought **that** at the swap meet.

*personal pronoun*  
Be someone **who** inspires others.

*specifies one(s) out of a group*  
**Which** history class do you have?

*provides additional information*  
I love my car, **which** is pink.

<b>that</b>	<b>two</b>
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*the number between 1 and 3*  
It takes **two** to tango.

<b>who</b>	<b>too</b>
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*overly*  
It's **too** hot to go outside.  
*also*  
She is a student, **too**.

*combination of "we" and "are"*  
**We're** going to take a break.

<b>we're</b>	<b>were</b>
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*past tense of "to be"*  
We **were** just at In-N-Out the other night.

*possessive form of the pronoun "who"*  
**Whose** line is it, anyway?

<b>whose</b>	<b>who's</b>
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*combination of "who" and "is"*  
Who's going to the birthday party?

*subject in a sentence, the one doing the action*  
Jamie is the kid **who** stole the cookies.

<b>who</b>	<b>whom</b>
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*object in the sentence, who receives the action*  
With **whom** were you hoping to speak?

*the possessive form of the pronoun "you"*  
He borrowed **your** camera for the weekend.

<b>your</b>	<b>you're</b>
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*combination of "you" and "are"*  
**You're** a good friend.

# Commonly Confused Words

By intentionally organizing your paper, you can demonstrate how your ideas connect. Transitional phrases can help your readers understand the flow of your ideas by telling how the ideas relate to each other on a sentence level. The following are examples of transition words.

## affect

usually a verb—to act on or influence a situation  
That bad call will **affect** the game.

sometimes a noun—a state of emotion or desire, especially one influencing behavior or action  
The counselor observed the patient's **affect**.

## a lot

two distinct words meaning “a significant amount”  
He ate **a lot** of pizza.

## altogether

entirely  
The presentation was **altogether** excellent.

## capital

a seat of government  
The **capital** of California is Sacramento.

financial resources  
Starting a new business requires a lot of **capital**.

## everyday

commonplace, ordinary, normal (adjective)  
For most, having dinner is an **everyday** occurrence.

## its

the possessive form of “it”  
The lion winced at the thorn in **its** paw.

## led

past tense of “to lead”  
Dr. Wallace **led** the students on a hike.

## lie

to lie oneself down (a person or animal)  
“I’m exhausted from the trip, so I’m going to **lie** down.”

## effect

usually a noun—the result  
The trip had an **effect** on them.

a title that refers to a phenomenon  
Our class discussed the Doppler **Effect**.

sometimes a verb—to bring about  
I want to **effect** change.

## alot

(not a word)

## all together

everything or everyone in its right place  
The kids were **all together** in the living room.

## Capitol

a building where a legislative body meets  
The governor visited the **Capitol** today.

## every day

each day  
“I’m living **every day** like a hustle.”

## it’s

combination of “it” and “is”  
It’s raining today.

## lead

a type of metal  
The officer’s vest is made of **lead**.

to guide, to precede  
Will you **lead** me to the store?

## lay

the past tense of “lie”  
I had a headache, so I went and **lay** down.

to set an object down  
“**Lay** your weapons down!”