

Lesson 11 - (Class IX-X)

Transition Words

Materials Designed by **BRAC University Centre for Languages (CfL)**

Transition Words:

Transition words are connecting words or phrases that act like bridges between parts of your writing. They link your sentences or paragraphs together smoothly so that there is no abrupt jump or break between ideas. See the following example:

This year Rehan studied attentively. As a result, he stood first in his final examination.

Transition words also help language flow smoothly when sequencing events. Some examples are first, second, third, next, then, finally, last etc. Although transition words and phrases can create powerful links between ideas and paragraphs in your writing making them easier to read, they all have different meanings. Therefore, before using a particular transitional word you should understand its meaning and usage completely.

In the following situations you can use transition words:

- To introduce an example
- To show agreement
- To indicate sequence or order
- To indicate time
- To compare
- To contrast
- To introduce an opposite idea or show exception
- To show cause and effect
- To summarise or conclude



A Paragraph with Transition words:

Baisabi Festival

There are 14 prime Adivasi festivals in Bangladesh. **However**, Baisabi is the main festival of the indigenous people of Bangladesh living in the hill tracts of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari. Although the festival is mainly called Baisabi, the different Adivasi people celebrate it with difference and uniqueness. The festival is celebrated by Chakmas and Tanchyangas as "Biju". **On the other hand**, Marmas celebrate it as the "Shangrai", and Tripuras as "Baisuk" or "Baisu". Biju festival is celebrated by Chakmas for three consecutive days - the last two days of Chaitra and the first day of Boishakh. They never kill any creature during these three days. They celebrate the last day of Chaitra as the core festival day. On this day they cook a mixed curry with five types of vegetables, which they call pachan. **In addition**, in the afternoon the teenagers play traditional games like Ghila and Bou-chi. **Nevertheless**, the Marmas celebrate Shangrai for four days. They all carry the image of Lord Buddha to the river - front and set down the image on a floating bed. In every locality, **therefore**, the water throwing festival starts with people pouring water at each other so that the previous year's sorrow will be washed away. The Baisuk festival of the Tripura tribe is celebrated by worshipping the God Shiva and asking for his blessings. **On the whole**, we can say that like the Bangla New Year Baisabi is celebrated by every Adivasi with much fervour and festivity.

Remember !!!

1. Usually, we put a comma after the transition word. For example, look at the paragraph, '**Baisabi Festival**'
2. Some transitional words can be used at the very beginning of a sentence, or in the middle of the sentence. For example-

Apparently, Arunim reads a lot of books other than the course books. **He, however**, gets good marks in the examinations.

List of Transitions

To express cause and effect:

- Therefore
- As a result
- Consequently
- In the next place

To express opinions:

- In my opinion
- In my view
- From my point of view
- I strongly believe that
- I feel that
- It seems to me that
- It appears to me that

To show an arrangement / sequence of your ideas:

- First, second, third
- First, next, then
- Meanwhile
- Initially
- In the meantime
- At that time
- Shortly
- Soon after
- Prior to that
- Immediately after that
- During
- Consequently
- Lastly

To introduce examples and evidences:

- For example
- For instance
- Such as
- To illustrate
- In this case

To limit or contradict something:

- In contrast
- On the other hand
- On the contrary
- However
- Despite
- Unlike
- But
- Still
- Yet

To add an idea to already stated one:

- Similarly
- Moreover
- Likewise
- Besides
- Too
- Also
- Further
- In addition
- Along with that
- Furthermore

To conclude what you have said:

- To conclude
- To sum up
- In brief
- On the whole
- Finally
- In conclusion
- In short
- In a nut shell

Vocabulary of the Week

- Ethnic (Adjective):** a national or a racial group of people
- Indigenous (Adjective):** originally existing in a place or country rather than arriving from another place
- Fervour (Noun):** great warmth of feeling
- Celebrate (Verb):** to take part in special enjoyable activities in order to show the importance of the programme
- Pour (Verb):** to make a substance (water) flow from a container
- Method (Noun):** a particular way of doing something
- Arum (Noun):** a plant of Europe and the Mediterranean region, having arrow-shaped leaves
- Reap (Verb):** to cut and collect a small piece of crop
- Script (Noun):** the words of a film, play, text or speech
- Folklore (Noun):** the traditional stories and culture of a group of people.

[Source: www.dictionary.cambridge.org]

Fill in the gaps with suitable transition words / phrases given below:

therefore, in this case, apparently, by and large, usually, however

Jhum Cultivation in the Hill Tracts

Jhum cultivation is an age-old and rain-dependent cultivation method. It is practised by the indigenous (Adivasi) people on the hills and slopes of the Chittagong Hill Tracts as they do not have suitable flat land for farming., this system involves cutting trees and clearing large areas of the hillside by burning., ashes act as fertilizers to get clean and fresh soil to farm., it is sometimes considered as a 'slash-and-burn' method. Seeds of different crops are mixed together and sown in this farmland after the first rain shower falls during the months of April to May., rice and vegetables produced in upland are reaped within a few months after sowing, whereas cotton, turmeric and arum are harvested after 8 or 9 months., this agricultural system is practised by individuals or families., the entire community altogether is often involved if there is any occasion.

Transition in conversation

Last year Rita visited Rangamati to observe the three day long Baisabi festival in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. She made a friend over there. Here is a conversation between Rita and her new friend, Shulekha Chakma:



Rita: Well, Shulekha, I heard that Chakma is the largest ethnic community in Bangladesh. Tell me about them.

Shulekha: You're right. We're the largest tribe in Bangladesh, as well as, in India. The Chakma tribe is also known as Changmas. We've our own unique traditions, culture, folklore and language. Moreover, the Chakmas have been the followers of Gautam Buddha for centuries. By nature, Chakmas are shy, but nevertheless, romantic, although they seldom admit it.

Rita: Hmm... You've your own language! What other languages do you speak?

Shulekha: We've our own script which has similarities with Mong Khmer and Burmese. Many elderly Chakmas still sign their names in chakma script; however, the young people are no longer interested to use the script. The majority speak Chakma and Bengali. Interestingly, at school Chakma children study both in Bengali and in English.

Rita: I like your dresses. They are different from ours. I guess Chakmas love to wear colourful dress.

Shulekha: We wear an ankle-length cloth, known as 'phinon', around our waists, while we cover the upper part of our body wrapping with a cloth known as 'hadi'. Both of these garments are colourfully hand woven with a variety of designs.

Rita: Now, could you please tell me something about the Baisabi festival?

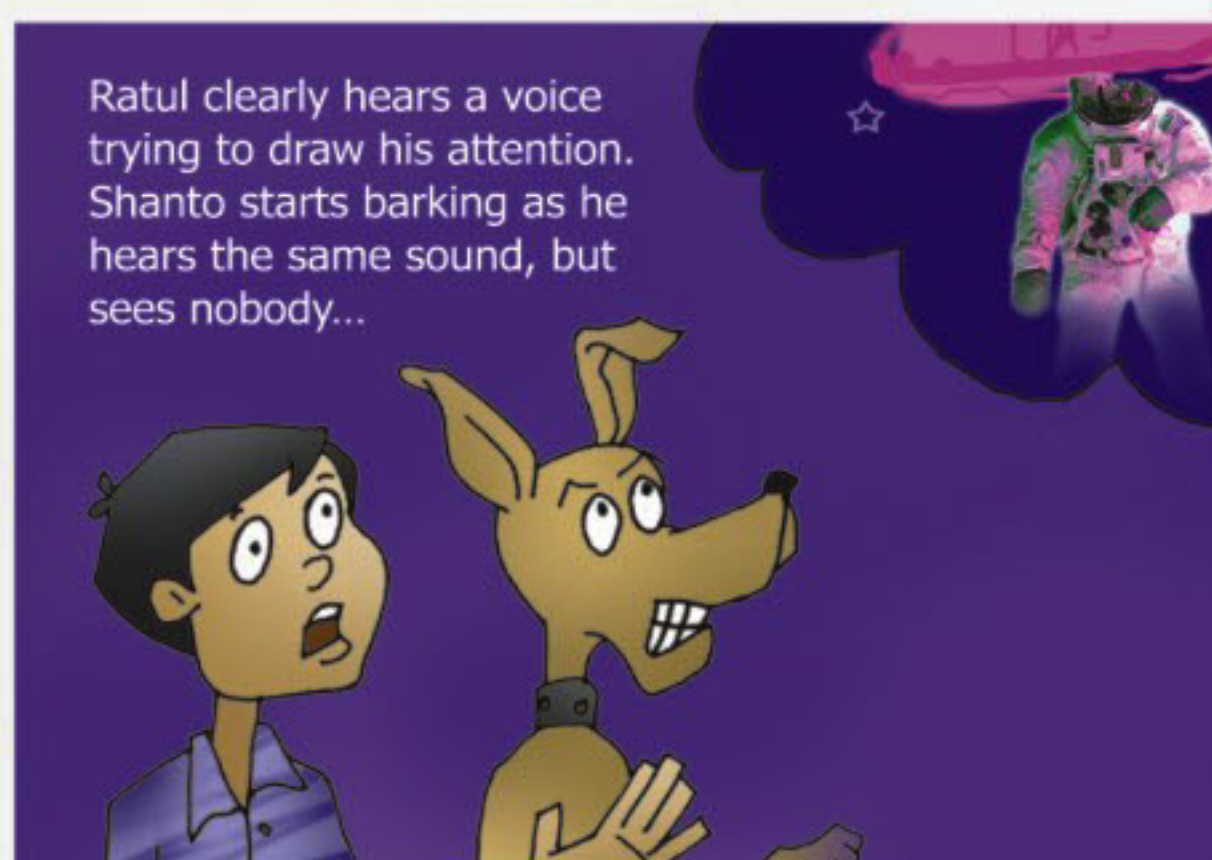
Shulekha: First of all, I want you to know that Baisabi is the biggest festival of ethnic people to mark the New Year. All tribal groups join the celebration with fanfare and enthusiasm. As part of the rituals young girls clean up their houses and float flowers on water. On the other hand, the young men spend time playing different games. A special dish 'pachan' is cooked with more than seven vegetables. It is very tasty. Furthermore, we believe that 'pachan' can cure us from all the diseases in the coming years.

Rita: Hey, Look! The Marmas are offering 'Jalpuja'!

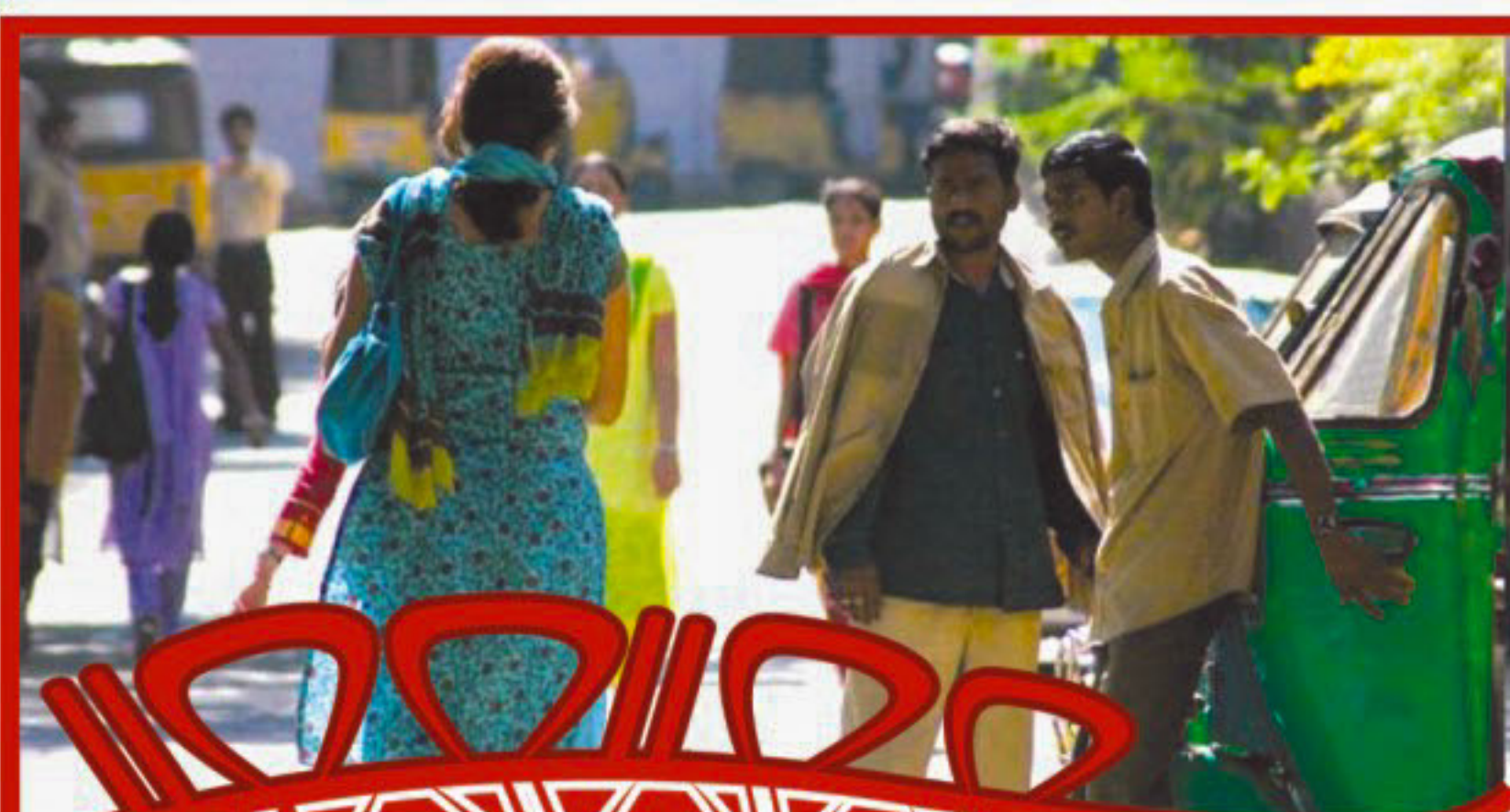
Shulekha: This is the Marma version of celebrating 'Baisabi'. Now the young girls will sprinkle water at one another. Let's go over there and enjoy the celebration.



Design & Illustration: Yousof Khan Hira



Ratul clearly hears a voice trying to draw his attention. Shanto starts barking as he hears the same sound, but sees nobody...



Eve teasing, call it a day.

Eve teasing is a social menace that has grown to an alarming proportion. The desperation of stalkers is taking innocent lives almost every day. Effective social awareness can fight against this heinous crime.

Let us end eve teasing

