Commas separating transition words

Transition words give helpful information in sentences and paragraphs. In writing, these words assist the writer to get from one idea to another and commas are used to identify and separate the transition words.

Some transition words:

- however
- although
- otherwise

Example:

I missed the maths test last week. The teacher didn’t mind, however.
I could see a movie on Friday. Although, I do have to go to basketball practice after school.
You should always double check your work. Otherwise, you might make simple mistakes.

Transition words can be used at the beginning, middle or end of a sentence.

Example:

It rained cats and dogs. However, we didn’t mind.
It rained cats and dogs. We, however, didn’t mind.
It rained cats and dogs. We didn’t, however, mind.
It rained cats and dogs. We didn’t mind, however.

Other examples of transition words include:

I have travelled to many different countries. For example, I have been to New Zealand, China, and Singapore.
When you travel you always need your passport. In addition, you should have spending money and clean clothes.
I love to visit new places. In particular, I like places that have delicious foods.
First, you plan your trip and then you book your ticket.
In conclusion, I think that visiting different places helps you keep an open mind.

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Transition words work to connect ideas and improve flow in writing. Commas are often used to separate these words from the rest of the sentence.

1. Highlight the transition word in each sentence.
   (a) I would like to go with you. However, my goldfish needs to go to the vet.
   (b) Your dog needs exercise everyday. Otherwise, it might become overweight.
   (c) First, I feed my cat and then I go to work.
   (d) For example, when we go on holiday we leave our pets with my grandparents.

2. Insert a comma after the transition word.
   (a) I love eating fruit. However I don’t really like bananas or oranges.
   (b) My mother was going to cook spaghetti for dinner. Instead she made pizza.
   (c) To bake a cake there are many steps that you must follow. First you need to combine flour and baking powder.

3. Use a transition word from the box below to complete the sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>similarly</th>
<th>however</th>
<th>first</th>
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<tr>
<td>otherwise</td>
<td>instead</td>
<td>although</td>
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   (a) I like to drink as much water as I can. ____________, it can be hard to remember when I am playing a game.
   (b) ________________ you need to put on the equipment before you go to bat.
   (c) Safety is the most important thing to remember. ________________ you may be injured.
   (d) We could practise throwing. ________________ I really need to practise kicking the ball more.

4. Read the paragraph and fill in your own transition words.

   **Australia is the driest continent on Earth.**
   ________________, the average monthly rainfall in January for Perth, Western Australia is only 8 mm. ________________, water is a precious resource in Australia and should not be wasted.
   Many native Australian animals like the koala, ________________, do not require large amounts of water to survive. ________________, they hydrate by eating the leaves of the eucalyptus tree or licking the dew from the leaves.