Correct the Transition Word Mistakes

Transition words are used in a sentence to connect two ideas. They join clauses or sentences together to show a difference or a connection.

Example 1:
We arrived late at the movie; indeed, we missed the first thirty minutes.

Indeed is a transition word. It clarifies how late we arrived at the movie.

Example 2:
We arrived late at the movie; however we missed the first thirty minutes.

However is the transition word in the second example, but doesn’t make sense as it is used in the sentence. However is a transition word that shows contrast, yet there is no contrast to be made. Both clauses are about being late to the movie. A better sentence with however would be:

Example 3:
We left early to go to the movie; however, we still missed the first thirty minutes.

In Example 3, however shows the contrast between leaving early and still missing the beginning of the movie.

Below are sentences with misused transition words. Cross out the incorrect transition words and write a better one in the space below the sentence.

1. Tim earned an A on the test; even so, Justin also received an A.

2. The book was interesting; as a result, it was hard to read.

3. Gordon finished his chores early; meanwhile, he had time to play football.

4. Sarah’s horse is beautiful; instead, it is well-bred.

5. The sailors prepared the ship to sail; otherwise, the dock workers loaded the cargo.

6. Her sister had a cold; however, Julie’s family canceled the trip.

7. Oranges are good for you; nevertheless, they are full of vitamin C.

8. Two seats were left on the bus; similarly, most of the group had to wait for the next one.
Correct the Transition Word Mistakes

Transition words are used in a sentence to connect two ideas. They join clauses or sentences together to show a difference or a connection.

**Example 1:**
We arrived late at the movie; *indeed*, we missed the first thirty minutes.

*Indeed* is a transition word. It clarifies how late we arrived at the movie.

**Example 2:**
We arrived late at the movie; *however* we missed the first thirty minutes.

*However* is the transition word in the second example, but doesn’t make sense as it is used in the sentence. *However* is a transition word that shows contrast, yet there is no contrast to be made. Both clauses are about being late to the movie. A better sentence with *however* would be:

**Example 3:**
We left early to go to the movie; *however*, we still missed the first thirty minutes.

In Example 3, *however* shows the contrast between leaving early and still missing the beginning of the movie.

Below are sentences with misused transition words. Cross out the incorrect transition words and write a better one in the space below the sentence. **Actual student answers will vary; examples of correct answers:**

1. Tim earned an A on the test; *even so*, Justin also received an A.
   
   **Cross out:** *even so*

   **Better:** *likewise*

2. The book was interesting; *as a result*, it was hard to read.
   
   **Cross out:** *as a result*

   **Better:** *although*

3. Gordon finished his chores early; *meanwhile*, he had time to play football.
   
   **Cross out:** *meanwhile*

   **Better:** *as a result*

4. Sarah’s horse is beautiful; *instead*, it is well-bred.
   
   **Cross out:** *instead*

   **Better:** *likewise*

5. The sailors prepared the ship to sail; *otherwise*, the dock workers loaded the cargo.
   
   **Cross out:** *otherwise*

   **Better:** *meanwhile*

6. Her sister had a cold; *however*, Julie’s family canceled the trip.
   
   **Cross out:** *however*

   **Better:** *consequently*

7. Oranges are good for you; *nevertheless*, they are full of vitamin C.
   
   **Cross out:** *nevertheless*

   **Better:** *for example*

8. Two seats were left on the bus; *similarly*, most of the group had to wait for the next one.
   
   **Cross out:** *similarly*

   **Better:** *therefore*