**Using Transitions Between Paragraphs**

Our group had a very interesting trip. The time at the beach was just awful. It rained every day, and we had water in the tent and our clothes were always soaked. I caught cold and was in bed most of the time. Two others in our group were also sick. The mountains were full of sunshine. We had a great time camping and going on hikes, and recovered from our illnesses. It was the complete opposite from the beach. In fact, we even got a tan after being in the mountains.

As you can see, the link between the two paragraphs in this example could be much stronger, much smoother. That is because the end of the first paragraph—which deals with being sick—doesn’t have a close relationship with the beginning of the second paragraph. Without a transitional phase or sentence, there is not a smooth flow from the first paragraph to the second.

The key to having good transitions from paragraph to paragraph (or from sentence to sentence) is having a sentence which begins with the old information and progresses to the new information.

Because the first paragraph of the example above deals with the beach, a bad time and illness, the first part of the transition sentence should refer back to one or more of these things. The second part of the transition sentence should refer to the mountains, the weather, or the fun time.

**Note:** Transitional sentences should go at the beginning of the second paragraph.

**Corrected Paragraph** (note transitional links between not only paragraphs, but sentences)

Our group had a very interesting trip. The journey started out poorly, though, because the time at the beach was just awful. It rained every day. We had water in the tent and our clothes were soaked all the time. Because of the dampness, I caught cold and was in bed most of the time. Two others in our group were also sick.

In spite of the sickness and bad weather at the beach, the weather and good times in the mountains made our trip very enjoyable. The mountains were full of sunshine, and we recovered from our illnesses and had a great time camping and going on hikes. It was the complete opposite from the beach. In fact, we even got a tan after being in the mountains.