

**Words and phrases that indicate shifts in time can refer to things that**

**have already happened.**

*before he left*

*earlier*

*once upon a time*

**are happening together.**

*meanwhile*

*at the same time*

*during*

**happen after another event.**

*later*

*shortly after*

*the following week*

**Transitions that signal shifts in time may appear at the beginning, middle, or end of a sentence.**

*Meanwhile, the two boys made a plan to meet up after school and plan their science project.*

*She was careful to lock all the doors and windows **before he left the house.***

*It was **shortly after the science fair** that Becky decided to become a doctor.*

**Important Punctuation Note:**

- Words and phrases that indicate time at the **beginning** of sentences **are followed** by commas.
- Words and phrases that indicate time in the **middle or end** of a sentence **are not** followed by commas.
- Transitions that indicate position or place may also appear at the **beginning, middle, or end** of a sentence. There might be more than one transition in a sentence.

***In the nearby town,** the ice cream truck could hardly keep up with business.*

*A tiny paw could be seen poking out from **beneath the door.***

*She stared **across the valley** as the sun set **in the distance.***

**Important Punctuation Note:**

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