

Making a Transition

One of the commonest problems in going through student drafts is that of making a clear transition from one topic to another. The following example is taken from an assignment by a Greek-speaking student of Politics ('transitional' sentence printed in bold):

Original	Revision
Globalisation has also enforced the importance of international regulatory systems like the European Union (EU) and and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT). The cities are influenced by the actions of them. European cities, in particular, ...	Globalisation has also emphasised the importance of international regulatory systems such as the European Union (EU) and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT). Those systems are of importance even at the city level, where they can exercise a great deal of influence. European cities, in particular, ...

The student herself realised that the transition from 'regulatory systems' to 'cities' was abrupt and unexplained in her original draft, but was not certain how to correct that abruptness. In such cases the standard strategy is to cross-refer to the 'old' topic (here 'systems') in initial '(thematic)' position, and then show the relationship between that old topic and the 'new' topic. As soon as we started the revised transitional sentence with 'Those systems' there was no difficulty in completing the transition convincingly. A concordance confirms the collocational link between 'exercise' and 'influence':

1 llenge to the dominant conventions	exercised a major influence on political science and soci
2 ate. Prescott will thus be able to	exercise a pivotal influence on what happens next in the
3 recitals and in teaching. Thus she	exercised a powerful influence on an entire generation of
4 organisation with the capacity to	exercise a significant influence in the next few years.
5 y concerns about share price - can	exercise a stabilising influence in the financial communi
6 opologists say the Catholic church	exercises a strong influence over this impoverished state
7 n scandals have enabled lawyers to	exercise a worrying degree of influence over politics. H
8 ead on his honeymoon), Mountbatten	exercised an unhealthy influence on Charles, who plainly
9 elles has in the intervening years	exercised any comparably all-embracing influence on the m
10 sor, should he be in a position to	exercise any influence on the matter. Naturally this is
11 erday it expected Mr Milosevic "to	exercise decisive influence on the Bosnian Serb leadershi
12 Commission pecking order and would	exercise far less influence in the looming 1996 inter-gov
13 ntributing nations are entitled to	exercise influence over decision-making, but it must be d
14 in the EU: "We are in the union to	exercise influence, not to be dragged along. We must be a
15 ate's job to look after them. They	exercise less social influence on the neighbourhood if th
16 lar interests. Yet it has probably	exercised more influence when it has been ready to subord
17 the issue from his pulpit and has	exercised no influence on his flock. But Fred Bovett, who
18 want to get into it. The monarchy	exercises no moral influence, sets no standards; it has t
19 itably will not have the weight to	exercise significant influence other than very occasionall
20 ss. Where the PRI has continued to	exercise undue influence is in the distribution of econom

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