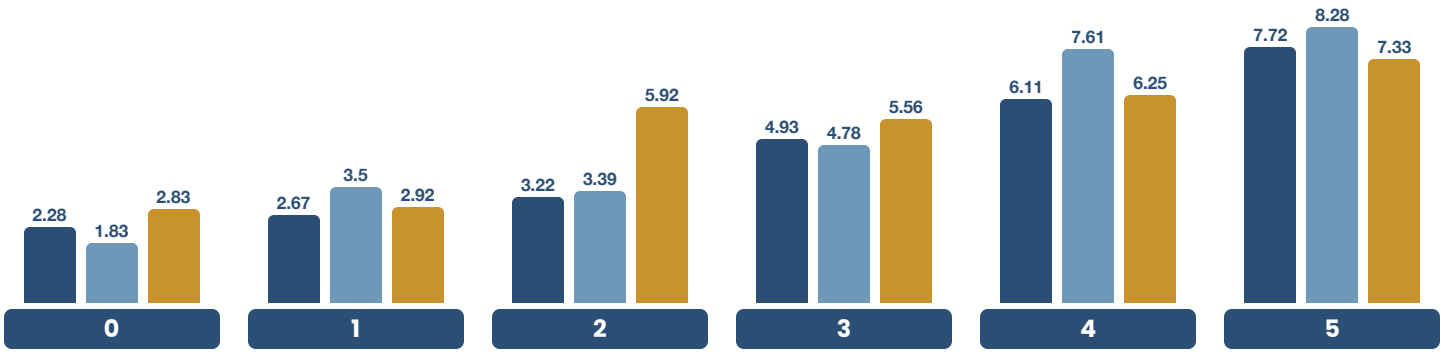
TRANSITION WORDS BY SCORE

AVERAGE TRANSITION WORD USE BY SCORE • STAAR ECR

TEA RELEASED ECR SCORING GUIDE SAMPLE PAPERS • 2024 TO 2026 • GRADES 3 TO 8 PLUS ENGLISH I AND II

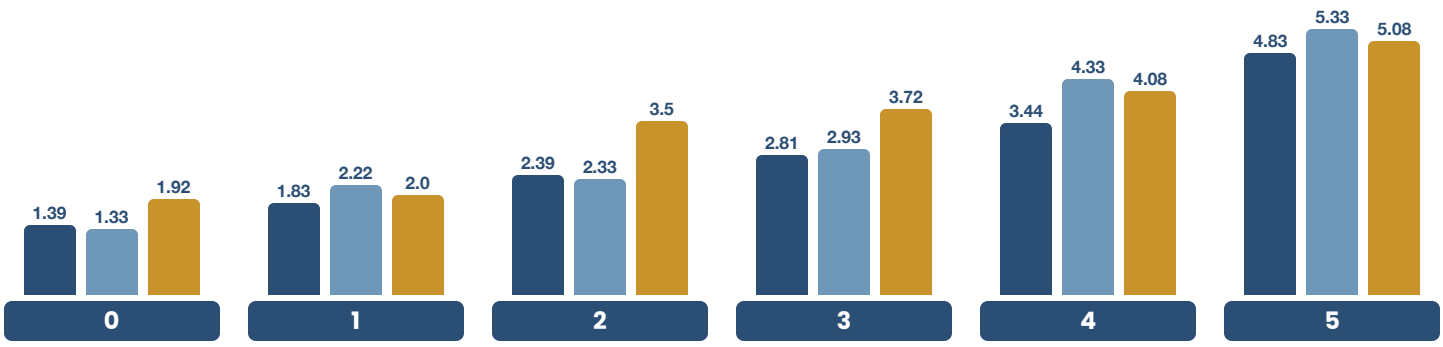
SCORES 0 TO 5 • 312 PAPERS • ORIGINAL STUDENT WORDING RETAINED

A – AVERAGE NUMBER OF TRANSITION WORDS PER PAPER



Elementary · Middle · High — *Average number of transition word uses per paper. Score 5 papers more than double score 1 papers in every band.*

B – AVERAGE NUMBER OF DIFFERENT TRANSITION WORDS PER PAPER



Elementary · Middle · High — *Average number of different transition words per paper. Rises with score in every band.*

C – MOST USED TRANSITION WORDS AT SCORE 5 VS SCORE 1

ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE	HIGH
Score 5 because 30 · so 19 · but 17 · then 17 · also 6	**Score 5** because 31 · also 22 · then 18 · but 16 · so 14	**Score 5** so 17 · because 14 · but 13 · also 9 · however 8
Score 1 so 15 · because 12 · also 9 · but 7 · then 2	**Score 1** so 20 · but 19 · because 12 · then 5 · also 4	**Score 1** but 12 · because 7 · so 7 · also 3 · then 3

What the bars show. Score 5 papers use more than twice as many transition words as score 1 papers in every band, and the average number of different transition words rises with score in every band. The same five linkers top both lists in elementary and middle school (so, because, but, then, also); in high school however joins the score 5 list. Each bar pools every TEA released paper at that score for the band's grades, 6 per grade (9 at score 3), so small differences may just be noise.

TRANSITION WORDS BY SCORE

EXACT NUMBERS BY GRADE • STAAR ECR

TEA RELEASED ECR SCORING GUIDE SAMPLE PAPERS • 2024 TO 2026 • POOLED ACROSS YEARS

EACH CELL: AVERAGE NUMBER OF TRANSITION WORD USES, AVERAGE NUMBER OF DIFFERENT TRANSITION WORDS

GRADE	SCORE 0 n=6	SCORE 1 n=6	SCORE 2 n=6	SCORE 3 n=9	SCORE 4 n=6	SCORE 5 n=6
Grade 3	**0.50** words 0.50 diff	**3.00** words 2.17 diff	**2.33** words 1.83 diff	**5.00** words 2.44 diff	**7.17** words 3.50 diff	**5.33** words 2.83 diff
Grade 4	**2.50** words 1.67 diff	**2.33** words 1.83 diff	**3.67** words 2.50 diff	**4.33** words 2.67 diff	**5.50** words 3.67 diff	**8.83** words 6.83 diff
Grade 5	**3.83** words 2.00 diff	**2.67** words 1.50 diff	**3.67** words 2.83 diff	**5.44** words 3.33 diff	**5.67** words 3.17 diff	**9.00** words 4.83 diff
Grade 6	**1.67** words 1.33 diff	**2.83** words 1.67 diff	**3.00** words 1.83 diff	**3.44** words 2.56 diff	**9.17** words 5.50 diff	**6.50** words 4.00 diff
Grade 7	**1.17** words 1.00 diff	**3.83** words 2.00 diff	**3.33** words 2.67 diff	**5.00** words 2.67 diff	**7.67** words 4.33 diff	**7.33** words 5.00 diff
Grade 8	**2.67** words 1.67 diff	**3.83** words 3.00 diff	**3.83** words 2.50 diff	**5.89** words 3.56 diff	**6.00** words 3.17 diff	**11.00** words 7.00 diff
English I	**2.00** words 1.67 diff	**3.33** words 2.00 diff	**6.00** words 3.50 diff	**6.00** words 4.33 diff	**6.33** words 4.33 diff	**6.67** words 4.83 diff
English II	**3.67** words 2.17 diff	**2.50** words 2.00 diff	**5.83** words 3.50 diff	**5.11** words 3.11 diff	**6.17** words 3.83 diff	**8.00** words 5.33 diff

Reading the table. Each cell pools that grade and score point across 2024, 2025, and 2026. Score point 0 papers include blank and very short papers and are counted as they stand. Method: each of the 46 listed transition words and phrases counts once per whole word use, case does not matter, and a longer phrase is counted before its shorter parts so no use counts twice. Misspellings count as written.