

**Gradually / Eventually / Sooner or later / At some point / In the end / ...end up...**

**Gradually** means that something happens **slowly** and is not completed immediately. (Can be future tense or past tense.)

- Athena studied English every day for two years. Gradually, she began to speak more fluently.
- After I broke my leg, I had surgery. Then I began rehabilitation. Gradually, I was able to walk again.

**Eventually / Sooner or later / At some point** are similar to “gradually.” These words mean that something takes a long time to be completed.

- The criminal must go to jail for his crime. Eventually, he will get out and return to society.
- You should stop playing video games so much. Sooner or later, they’re going to make you dumb.
- Students have too much pressure these days. At some point, they might just snap and go crazy!
- You can’t just be lazy your whole life. Eventually, you have to get a job and be responsible.

**In the end / ...end up...** is slightly different. This is used to describe what happened in the end. (“...ended up...” **should be followed by either an adjective or verb+ing.**)

- Don was addicted to gambling. Eventually, he lost all his money. In the end, his wife left him and he was sad and alone. (He ended up sad and alone.)
- I made the minimum payment on my credit card every month. Gradually, my balance went down. In the end, I paid off my debt, but it took me 50 years! (I ended up paying off my debt.)
- You shouldn’t be so irresponsible. In the end, you’ll regret it. (You’ll end up regretting it.)

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*Rewrite the sentences below, using the transition words.*

1. It was very hard to pass the school's entrance exam. I studied for 6 months, and I passed it!

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2. Joe bought a lottery ticket every day for 20 years. Last week, he won, and now he's rich!

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3. Because she has cancer, she has slowly gotten thinner and thinner.

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4. If you keep cheating, you're going to get caught someday.

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5. If I write one page every day, I will finish my book sometime in the future!

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6. Chris practiced drums every day, and after awhile he joined a popular band.

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