

Transition Questions on the SAT/ACT

Transitions connect ideas together; they express the “how” sentences are related. To answer transition questions, you must understand the text.

Types of Transitions on the SAT/ACT

- **Continuers:** indicate that two sentences are expressing similar ideas
- **Contradictors:** indicate that two sentences are expressing different ideas
- **Cause/Effect:** words indicate that one action is a result of another
- **Sequence:** indicate organization by time or position.

Examples:

Continuers: and, also, furthermore, moreover, in addition, for instance, for example, that is, in fact, indeed, similarly, likewise, then, next, finally, subsequently, hence

Contradictors: but, yet, however, although, while, whereas, despite/in spite of, still, even so, nevertheless, meanwhile, otherwise, instead, nonetheless, in contrast, on the contrary, on the other hand

Cause/Effect: so, thus, therefore, consequently, as a result, because, since, accordingly, as such

Sequence: Previously, lastly, again, and then, finally, furthermore, next, moreover,

Emphasize preceding sentence = in fact, indeed

STEPS:

1. Summarize the text in your own words
2. Visualize DIRECTION – continuing, reversing, enhancing, explaining...
3. Identify the relationship between the sentences
4. Match

Tips:

1. Eliminate choices that express a similar relationship
2. Memorize the list below. When seeing a transition (not highlighted in the list below) in a question, replace this transition with the equivalent highlighted transition word. The highlighted transition expresses the relationship in a clearer fashion.

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Glossary of Tricky Transitions on the SAT/ACT

Therefore, as a result = accordingly, consequently

In addition = furthermore, moreover

Despite this = Even so, still, nevertheless

Although, but = while, whereas

Similarly = likewise

At the same time = meanwhile

In other words = That is (writer is providing a definition or explanation/clarification. It is often after a dash.)