

Question ID f3c0e374

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: f3c0e374

In 1885, Chinese-born California resident Mary Tape became a hero of the Asian American civil rights movement. In January of that year, she won an antidiscrimination case in the California Supreme Court. _____ in April, she wrote an open letter criticizing her local board of education for discrimination. Both actions are remembered today as historic stands against racism.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Later,
- B. For instance,
- C. In other words,
- D. Rather,

ID: f3c0e374 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Later” logically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence occurred later in a chronological sequence of events than did the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence is an example of the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the letter-writing is an event that occurred after the court case. Choice C is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the letter-writing is an event that occurred after the court case. Choice D is incorrect because “rather” illogically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence is an alternative to the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the letter-writing is an event that occurred after the court case.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 7a7ba10d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 7a7ba10d

When Chinese director Chloé Zhao accepted the Oscar in 2021 for her film *Nomadland*, she made Academy Award history. _____ only one other woman, Kathryn Bigelow of the United States, had been named best director at the Oscars, making Zhao the second woman and the first Asian woman to win the award.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Previously,
- C. However,
- D. Likewise,

ID: 7a7ba10d Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Previously” logically signals that the event described in this sentence—Bigelow being named best director—occurred before Zhao’s win. The fact that only one other woman had won the award before puts Zhao’s win in perspective.

Choice A is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred as a result or consequence of Zhao’s win. Instead, it occurred before Zhao was named best director and puts Zhao’s win in perspective. Choice C is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred in spite of or in contrast to Zhao’s win. Instead, it occurred before Zhao was named best director and puts Zhao’s win in perspective. Choice D is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that this sentence merely adds a second, similar piece of information to the information about Zhao’s win. Instead, the fact that only one other woman had won the award before puts Zhao’s win in perspective.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 9818337a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 9818337a

The ancient Spartans were known for their bitingly concise—or laconic—wit, a quality they maintained even in the face of great peril. _____ when Philip II of Macedon threatened Laconia (the region of Greece containing Sparta), he said, “If I invade Laconia, I shall turn you out.” The Spartans replied with a single word: “If.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Rather,
- B. In other words,
- C. That said,
- D. For instance,

ID: 9818337a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "For instance" logically signals that the concise, witty exchange between Philip II and the Spartans is an example supporting the previous claim—that the Spartans employed wit even in the face of peril.

Choice A is incorrect because "rather" illogically signals that the exchange between Philip II and the Spartans contrasts with the previous claim about the Spartans’ wit. Instead, the exchange is an example of their wit. Choice B is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the exchange between Philip II and the Spartans is a restatement of the previous claim about the Spartans’ wit. Instead, the exchange is an example of their wit. Choice C is incorrect because "that said" illogically signals that the exchange between Philip II and the Spartans is an exception to the previous claim about the Spartans’ wit. Instead, the exchange is an example of their wit.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 5bf7d464

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 5bf7d464

There are three basic steps you should follow when planning a scientific inquiry. First, thoroughly research the question you wish to answer. _____ come up with a prediction (also called a hypothesis) about the answer to your question. Third, develop an experiment that can test the accuracy of your hypothesis.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Therefore,
- B. Instead,
- C. For example,
- D. Second,

ID: 5bf7d464 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Second" logically signals that the activity described in this sentence—coming up with a prediction—is the next step in the three-part sequence of steps described in the text.

Choice A is incorrect because "therefore" illogically signals that coming up with a prediction is a result or consequence of the activity described in the previous sentence: researching a question. While a prediction may be influenced by prior research, these activities are distinct steps in planning a scientific inquiry. Coming up with a prediction is the next step in the three-part sequence of steps described in the text. Choice B is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that coming up with a prediction is an alternative to the activity described in the previous sentence: researching a question. Rather, coming up with a prediction is the next step in the three-part sequence of steps described in the text. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that coming up with a prediction is an example of the activity described in the previous sentence: researching a question. Instead, coming up with a prediction is the next step in the three-part sequence of steps described in the text.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 654e54b2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 654e54b2

The number of dark spots that appear on the Sun, known as sunspots, can vary greatly. For example, there were about 180 sunspots in November 2001. _____ there were only about 2 sunspots in December 2008.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Therefore,
- D. By comparison,

ID: 654e54b2 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The first sentence claims that the number of sunspots can vary greatly. To support this claim, the next two sentences compare two examples: one time when there were 180 sunspots and one time when there were only 2 sunspots. So the transition “by comparison” fits perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a restatement of the same idea, which doesn’t make sense here. This sentence doesn’t restate the first example—it describes a totally different example. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a similar idea, which doesn’t make sense here. This sentence describes a second example that is very different from the first example. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The first example didn’t result in the second example.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3ded822c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 3ded822c

In June, female loggerhead sea turtles will swim back to the sandy beaches where they were born to lay eggs of their own. First, the turtle will dig her nest in the sand. _____ she will lay up to 100 eggs in the nest. Finally, she will cover it all with sand, before returning to the ocean.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Next,
- D. For example,

ID: 3ded822c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Next” logically signals that the egg laying in this sentence is the next step in the sequence of events described in the other sentences.

Choice A is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the egg laying in this sentence contrasts with the nest digging in the previous sentence. Instead, the egg laying follows the nest digging as the next step in the sequence of events. Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the egg laying in this sentence is similar to the nest digging in the previous sentence. Though the two actions are related, they are not similar. Instead, the egg laying follows the nest digging as the next step in the sequence of events. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the egg laying in this sentence is an example of the nest digging in the previous sentence. Instead, the egg laying follows the nest digging as the next step in the sequence of events.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ae5680f4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: ae5680f4

To explore how blinking affects social interactions, Dutch researchers observed interactions between human speakers and “listeners” (animated human faces on a screen). The researchers found that when the listeners blinked slowly, the speakers tended to talk for less time. _____ quicker blinks were associated with longer talking times.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Specifically,
- C. Firstly,
- D. By contrast,

ID: ae5680f4 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “By contrast” logically signals that the finding described in this sentence contrasts with the finding described in the previous sentence. That is, quicker blinks were associated with longer talking times, whereas slower blinks were associated with shorter talking times.

Choice A is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the finding described in this sentence is an example of the finding described in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with that finding. Choice B is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that this sentence provides specific, precise details about the finding described in the previous sentence. Instead, it presents information that contrasts with that finding. Choice C is incorrect because “firstly” illogically signals that the finding described in this sentence is a first point or occurs first in a chronological sequence of events. Instead, it contrasts with the finding described in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 75676e11

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 75676e11

The liquid metals in Earth’s core circulate constantly, and this circulation generates electrical currents that flow between Earth’s North and South magnetic poles. These electrical currents, _____ create a barrier around Earth that protects us from radiation and charged particles coming from space.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in turn,
- B. likewise,
- C. nevertheless,
- D. in reality,

ID: 75676e11 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "In turn" logically signals that the information in the sentence—that the electrical currents create a protective barrier around Earth—is a result or consequence of the previous information about the circulation of liquid metals generating electrical currents that flow between Earth’s magnetic poles.

Choice B is incorrect because "likewise" illogically signals that the information in the sentence is similar to the previous information about the circulation of liquid metals generating electrical currents that flow between Earth’s magnetic poles. Instead, the new information about the electrical currents is a direct result or consequence of the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information in the sentence is true despite the previous information about the circulation of liquid metals generating electrical currents that flow between Earth’s magnetic poles. Instead, the new information about the electrical currents is a direct result or consequence of the previous information. Choice D is incorrect because "in reality" illogically signals that the information in the sentence contradicts the previous information about the circulation of liquid metals generating electrical currents that flow between Earth’s magnetic poles. Instead, the new information about the electrical currents is a direct result or consequence of the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID af95e2fa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: af95e2fa

The envelope-shaped paper bags common in the US 150 years ago were impractical for carrying goods. _____ because they were the only paper bags that could be mass-produced, these bags dominated the market. That all changed in the 1870s, when industrial designer Margaret Knight patented a machine to make flat-bottomed, foldable paper bags.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. For instance,
- C. Thus,
- D. In other words,

ID: af95e2fa Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “However” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that envelope-shaped bags dominated the market—contrasts with the previous claim that these bags were impractical for carrying goods.

Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example supporting the previous claim that envelope-shaped bags were impractical for carrying goods. Instead, the sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the bags. Choice C is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous claim that envelope-shaped bags were impractical for carrying goods. Instead, the sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the bags. Choice D is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase of the previous claim that envelope-shaped bags were impractical for carrying goods. Instead, the sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the bags.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID db10f44a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: db10f44a

Although novels and poems are considered distinct literary forms, many authors have created hybrid works that incorporate elements of both. Bernardine Evaristo’s *The Emperor’s Babe*, _____ is a verse novel, a book-length narrative complete with characters and a plot but conveyed in short, crisp lines of poetry rather than prose.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. by contrast,
- B. consequently,
- C. secondly,
- D. for example,

ID: db10f44a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that *The Emperor’s Babe* is a novel conveyed in lines of poetry—exemplifies the claim in the previous sentence about hybrid works that incorporate elements of both novels and poems.

Choice A is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the claim about hybrid works in the previous sentence. Instead, the information demonstrates that Evaristo’s novel is an example of a hybrid work. Choice B is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a consequence, or result, of the claim about hybrid works in the previous sentence. Instead, the information demonstrates that Evaristo’s novel is an example of a hybrid work. Choice C is incorrect because “secondly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second, separate claim from the previous sentence’s claim about hybrid works. Instead, the information demonstrates that Evaristo’s novel is an example of a hybrid work.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID bf829d75

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: bf829d75

Arkansas aviator Louise Thaden was already a record breaker when she won the inaugural National Women’s Air Derby, a race from California to Ohio, in August of 1929. _____ in December of 1928, Thaden had set an aviation record when she reached an altitude of 20,269 feet in a Travel Air biplane.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Earlier,
- B. However,
- C. Next,
- D. As a result,

ID: bf829d75 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift back in time. Since the first sentence talks about Thaden’s race win in 1929 and the second shifts back to talking about her record in 1928, this makes the most sense here.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence actually agrees with and expands on the previous sentence by describing the earlier record that Thaden had "already" held. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift forward in time, which doesn’t make sense here. A record in 1928 didn’t come after Thaden’s race win in 1929. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense in this context—an event in 1929 can’t cause something in 1928.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 94a65e4d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 94a65e4d

Paleontologists once thought that early apes lived in tropical forests, but recent research suggests that they may have actually lived in savannas. Tropical forests are humid and have many trees spaced close together. _____ savannas are drier, and their trees are spaced further apart.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. In comparison,
- C. Firstly,
- D. In conclusion,

ID: 94a65e4d Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "In comparison" logically signals that the description of savannas in this sentence—that they are drier and their trees are spaced further apart—forms a comparison with the description of tropical forests in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the description of savannas in this sentence exemplifies the description of tropical forests in the previous sentence. Instead, this description forms a comparison with the description of tropical forests. Choice C is incorrect because "firstly" illogically signals that the description of savannas in this sentence indicates the first in a series of things. Instead, this description forms a comparison with the description of tropical forests in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect because "in conclusion" illogically signals that the description of savannas in this sentence concludes or summarizes information in the previous sentences. Instead, this description forms a comparison with the description of tropical forests in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3dc26dc1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 3dc26dc1

The 435 state districts in the US House of Representatives are designed to be roughly equal in population. These districts average around 760,000 people in size. However, only about 730,000 people live in the state of Alaska. _____ Alaska has just one House district, encompassing the entire state.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Instead,
- C. Finally,
- D. For instance,

ID: 3dc26dc1 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "As a result" logically signals that the information in the sentence—that, in the US House of Representatives, the entire state of Alaska has just one district—is the result or consequence of Alaska having only about 730,000 people. This is slightly below the average for House districts, which are designed to have roughly equal populations.

Choice B is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that Alaska having just one state district is an alternative to the information about the state’s population in the previous sentence. Rather, the fact that Alaska has just one district is a result or consequence of the entire state having slightly fewer people than an average-sized district. Choice C is incorrect because "finally" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Alaska having just one district indicates a last step in a process or a concluding summary. Instead, the fact that Alaska has just one district is a result or consequence of the entire state having slightly fewer people than an average-sized district. Choice D is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Alaska having just one district exemplifies the information about the state’s population in the previous sentence. Instead, the fact that Alaska has just one district is a result or consequence of the entire state having slightly fewer people than an average-sized district.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 32d4b9ec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 32d4b9ec

Following the Mata Ortiz pottery technique, Mexican sculptor Juan Quezada Celado starts by creating the base of the pot with a slab of clay. _____ he builds the pot walls by layering coils of clay around the perimeter of the base. Celado then smooths out the pot’s walls with a hacksaw blade. At last, the pot is ready to be painted.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. However,
- C. By contrast,
- D. Next,

ID: 32d4b9ec Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Next" logically signals that the information in this sentence—which explains how Celado builds the pot’s walls—is the next step in Celado’s pot creation process. The sentences that follow further signal this information by completing the process.

Choice A is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information about Celado building pot walls in this sentence exemplifies the information in the previous sentence about how Celado’s pot creation process begins. Instead, it is the next step in this process. Choice B is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence about how Celado’s pot creation process begins. Instead, it is the next step in this process. Choice C is incorrect because "by contrast" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence about how Celado’s pot creation process begins. Instead, it is the next step in this process.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6651abfd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 6651abfd

When sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi was designing the Statue of Liberty, he sought the advice of engineer Gustave Eiffel. Eiffel suggested that he make the statue’s arm thick and position it straight above the figure’s head. _____ Bartholdi decided to slim the arm and tilt it out at an angle.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. Instead,
- C. Thus,
- D. For example,

ID: 6651abfd Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Instead" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Bartholdi decided to slim and tilt out the arm of the Statue of Liberty—contrasts with Eiffel’s design suggestions for the statue.

Choice A is incorrect because "additionally" illogically suggests that the information in this sentence is merely an additional fact related to Eiffel’s design suggestions in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with those suggestions. Choice C is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the information that follows is a result of Eiffel’s design suggestions in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with those suggestions. Choice D is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information about Bartholdi’s design decisions in this sentence exemplifies Eiffel’s design suggestions in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with those suggestions.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 853a1faa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 853a1faa

Before the 1847 introduction of the US postage stamp, the cost of postage was usually paid by the recipient of a letter rather than the sender, and recipients were not always able or willing to pay promptly. _____ collecting this fee could be slow and arduous, and heaps of unpaid-for, undeliverable mail piled up in post offices.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. Consequently,
- D. For example,

ID: 853a1faa Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Consequently” logically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence (slow fee collection, heaps of undeliverable mail) were a consequence of the fee system described in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence occurred despite the fee system described in the previous sentence. Instead, they were a consequence of that system. Choice B is incorrect because “on the contrary” illogically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence contrast with the fee system described in the previous sentence. Instead, they were a consequence of that system. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence are an example of the fee system described in the previous sentence. Instead, they were a consequence of that system.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID cda46057

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: cda46057

In most deer species, males grow antlers, and females don't. _____ reindeer are different. They are the only deer species in which the females grow antlers, too.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Next,
- C. However,
- D. Thus,

ID: cda46057 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "However" logically signals that the claim about reindeer in this sentence contrasts with the information about most deer species in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to the previous information about most deer species. Instead, it contrasts with that information. Choice B is incorrect because "next" illogically signals that the claim about reindeer in this sentence is the next step in a process. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information about most deer species. Choice D is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence results from the previous information about most deer species. Instead, it contrasts with that information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID bb869158

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: bb869158

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s 2013 novel *Americanah* chronicles the divergent experiences of Ifemelu and Obinze, a young Nigerian couple, after high school. Ifemelu moves to the United States to attend a prestigious university. _____ Obinze travels to London, hoping to start a career there. However, frustrated with the lack of opportunities, he soon returns to Nigeria.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Meanwhile,
- B. Nevertheless,
- C. Secondly,
- D. In fact,

ID: bb869158 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Meanwhile” logically signals that the action described in this sentence (Obinze’s move to London to pursue a career) is simultaneous with the action described in the previous sentence (Ifemelu’s move to the United States). The first sentence establishes that the actions take place around the same time, referring to the characters’ “divergent experiences” following high school.

Choice B is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Obinze’s move to London is true despite the previous information about Ifemelu’s move to the United States. Instead, as the first sentence establishes, Obinze’s move and Ifemelu’s move are related, parallel experiences that occur around the same time. Choice C is incorrect because “secondly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second point or reason separate from the previous information about Ifemelu’s move to the United States. Instead, as the first sentence establishes, Obinze’s move and Ifemelu’s move are related, parallel experiences that occur around the same time. Choice D is incorrect because “in fact” illogically signals that the information in this sentence emphasizes, modifies, or contradicts the previous information about Ifemelu’s move to the United States. Instead, as the first sentence establishes, Obinze’s move and Ifemelu’s move are related, parallel experiences that occur around the same time.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ea5e04c7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: ea5e04c7

In studying whether jellyfish sleep, researchers Michael Abrams, Claire Bedbrook, and Ravi Nath attempted to answer three questions. _____ is there a period each day when the pulse rates of jellyfish decline? Second, do jellyfish respond more slowly to stimuli during that period? Finally, if prevented from sleeping, are jellyfish adversely affected?

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. First,
- C. Additionally,
- D. However,

ID: ea5e04c7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “First” logically signals that the question in this sentence—whether there is a daily period during which jellyfish pulse rates decline—is the first in a sequence of three questions the researchers attempted to answer about jellyfish sleep behavior.

Choice A is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the question in this sentence is a result of the three questions the researchers attempted to answer. Instead, it is the first of those three questions. Choice C is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the question in this sentence is an additional question related to the three questions the researchers attempted to answer. Instead, it is the first of those three questions. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the question in this sentence contrasts with the three questions the researchers attempted to answer. Instead, it is the first of those three questions.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 768ee7e3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 768ee7e3

Organisms have evolved a number of surprising adaptations to ensure their survival in adverse conditions. Tadpole shrimp (*Triops longicaudatus*) embryos, _____ can pause development for over ten years during extended periods of drought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in contrast,
- B. for example,
- C. meanwhile,
- D. consequently,

ID: 768ee7e3 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that tadpole shrimp embryos can pause development during extended periods of drought—exemplifies the previous sentence’s claim that organisms have evolved surprising adaptations to survive in adverse conditions.

Choice A is incorrect because “in contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the claim about organisms in the previous sentence. Instead, it exemplifies this claim. Choice C is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is separate from (while occurring simultaneously with) the claim about organisms in the previous sentence. Instead, it exemplifies this claim. Choice D is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a consequence, or result, of the claim about organisms in the previous sentence. Instead, it exemplifies this claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 9f03982b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 9f03982b

Practical movie effects, such as the use of actual locations in a film, provide a more realistic visual experience than computer-generated imagery (CGI) does, but giving audiences the “real thing” can be prohibitively expensive. _____ many filmmakers use a blended approach, employing practical effects whenever possible and CGI elements as necessary to control costs.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Furthermore,
- D. In other words,

ID: 9f03982b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “For this reason” has the same meaning as “therefore.” .

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “Similarly” doesn’t show cause and effect: it shows the addition of another agreeing idea. Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “Furthermore” doesn’t show cause and effect: it shows the addition of another agreeing idea. Choice D is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “In other words” doesn’t show cause and effect: it shows a restatement of the same idea in different words.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e7e48328

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: e7e48328

To guarantee the validity of experimental results, scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measurement. _____ metrologists (scientists who study measurement) developed the SI, or International System of Units. The SI’s units of measurement are based on unchanging values in nature, such as the mass of an electron or the speed of light.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In contrast,
- B. Regardless,
- C. In addition,
- D. For this reason,

ID: e7e48328 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "For this reason" logically signals that the information that follows—that metrologists developed the SI based on unchanging values in nature—is a result of the previous claim that scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measurement to guarantee the validity of experimental results.

Choice A is incorrect because "in contrast" illogically signals that the information that follows contrasts with the previous claim that scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measurement. Instead, the information that metrologists developed the SI based on unchanging values in nature is a result of that claim. Choice B is incorrect because "regardless" illogically signals that the information that follows is true despite the previous claim that scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measure. Instead, the information that metrologists developed the SI based on unchanging values in nature is a result of that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that the information that follows is merely an additional fact related to the previous claim that scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measurement. Instead, the information that metrologists developed the SI based on unchanging values in nature is a result of that claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2126e18f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 2126e18f

Tyrian purple was a highly prized dye among the Phoenicians (an ancient civilization located in present-day Lebanon). The Phoenicians were famous for using this natural dye to color their clothes a distinctive purple. _____ the name “Phoenicia” itself, some historians claim, may have originally meant “land of purple.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. Regardless,
- C. Lastly,
- D. On the contrary,

ID: 2126e18f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “In fact” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—Phoenicia being named after the color purple—emphasizes and supports the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye.

Choice B is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the claim about Phoenicia’s name contrasts with the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye. Instead, the naming emphasizes and supports this claim. Choice C is incorrect because “lastly” illogically signals that the claim about Phoenicia’s name is the final step in a process or sequence. Instead, the naming emphasizes and supports the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye. Choice D is incorrect because “on the contrary” illogically signals that the claim about Phoenicia’s name directly opposes the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye. Instead, the naming emphasizes and supports this claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 0a1b903c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 0a1b903c

Preston Singletary is a Tlingit glass artist who often collaborates with other artists. _____ he has worked with Tewa pottery artist Jody Naranjo several times. Together, Singletary and Naranjo have created pottery-inspired glass pieces such as *Sunset Stampede* and *Kiva Steps*.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In conclusion,
- B. For example,
- C. However,
- D. In comparison,

ID: 0a1b903c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "For example" logically signals that this sentence—noting Singletary’s work with Jody Naranjo—provides an example supporting the previous point about Singletary’s collaborations with other artists.

Choice A is incorrect because "in conclusion" illogically signals that the information in this sentence concludes or summarizes the previous point about Singletary’s collaborations with other artists. Instead, it provides an example in support of that point. Choice C is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous point about Singletary’s collaborations with other artists. Instead, it provides an example in support of that point. Choice D is incorrect because "in comparison" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is being compared to the previous point about Singletary’s collaborations with other artists. Instead, it provides an example in support of that point.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID dabfeafe

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: dabfeafe

In 1891, dancer and choreographer Loie Fuller first performed her celebrated Serpentine Dance, artfully twirling her long, flowing skirt to create striking visual effects. _____ in 1896, cinema pioneers Auguste and Louis Lumière made a groundbreaking short film of Fuller’s dance.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. In conclusion,
- C. Later,
- D. In other words,

ID: dabfeafe Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Later” logically signals that the event discussed in this sentence—the creation of the short film featuring Fuller’s dance—is a related event that occurred after the event discussed in the previous sentence (the 1891 debut of the dance).

Choice A is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the creation of the short film is a related event that followed the event discussed in the previous sentence. Choice B is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the information in this sentence concludes or summarizes the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the creation of the short film is a related event that followed the event discussed in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the creation of the short film is a related event that followed the event discussed in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 863da831

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 863da831

The Alaska Native Language Archive (ANLA) is known for its impressive audio collection. _____ the ANLA has more than 5,000 audio recordings of Native Alaskan languages dating as far back as 1943.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. After,
- C. Regardless,
- D. Instead,

ID: 863da831 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "In fact" logically signals that the information in this sentence about the large number of recordings in ANLA’s collection emphasizes and supports the previous claim that ANLA is known for its impressive audio collection.

Choice B is incorrect because "after" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurs later in a sequence of events than the previous claim about ANLA’s impressive audio collection. Instead, the information about the large number of recordings emphasizes and supports that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "regardless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous claim about ANLA’s impressive audio collection. Instead, the information about the large number of recordings emphasizes and supports that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that the information in this sentence presents an alternative to the previous claim about ANLA’s impressive audio collection. Rather, the information about the large number of recordings emphasizes and supports that claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID fce82a38

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: fce82a38

Celebrated Tewa potter Maria Martinez (1887–1980) made her signature all-black ceramic vessels using a heating technique called reduction firing. This technique involves smothering the flame surrounding the clay vessel. _____ the vessel takes on a shiny, black hue.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. On the contrary,
- B. For example,
- C. Previously,
- D. As a result,

ID: fce82a38 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "As a result" logically signals that the information in this sentence—the vessel turning black—is a result of the heating technique discussed in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "on the contrary" illogically signals that the information in this sentence directly opposes the heating technique in the previous sentence. Instead, the vessel turns black as a result of that technique. Choice B is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example of the heating technique in the previous sentence. Instead, the vessel turns black as a result of that technique. Choice C is incorrect because "previously" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurs earlier in a chronological series of events than does the heating technique discussed in the first two sentences. Instead, the vessel turns black as a result of that technique.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID da07a639

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: da07a639

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was a prominent classical music composer from England who toured the US three times in the early 1900s. The child of a West African father and an English mother, Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry. For example, he referred to himself as Anglo-African. _____ he incorporated the sounds of traditional African music into his classical music compositions.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In addition,
- B. Actually,
- C. However,
- D. Regardless,

ID: da07a639 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “In addition” logically signals that the detail in this sentence—that Coleridge-Taylor included traditional African music in his classical compositions—adds to the information in the previous sentence. Specifically, the previous sentence indicates one way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry, and the claim that follows indicates a second, additional way.

Choice B is incorrect because “actually” illogically signals that the detail in this sentence is surprising in light of the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the detail adds to the information, indicating a second, additional way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry. Choice C is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the detail in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the detail adds to the information, indicating a second, additional way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry. Choice D is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the detail in this sentence is true despite the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the detail adds to the information, indicating a second, additional way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ce7ee632

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: ce7ee632

In the 1850s, William Still was instrumental in helping nearly 1,000 people escape from slavery, earning him the moniker “the Father of the Underground Railroad.” _____ despite the fame of his contributions during his lifetime, Still is discussed far less today than other prominent Black abolitionists from his era, such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. However,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Similarly,

ID: ce7ee632 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "However" is used to indicate a contrast between two ideas. The first sentence describes how Still used to be famous. This sentence describes how Still is not very famous today, so the transition "however" fits perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces an example. But the second sentence doesn't provide a specific example of Still's famous contributions to the Underground Railroad. Instead, it changes the subject to how his fame has faded over time. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces an example or continuation of a previous idea. But the second sentence doesn't provide a specific example of Still's famous contributions to the Underground Railroad. Instead, it changes the subject to how his fame has faded over time. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the agreement between two ideas. But this sentence shows a contrast with the first sentence—namely, that Still used to be very famous but now isn't very famous.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3ca8ccc1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 3ca8ccc1

Historians agree that the jazz pianist Jelly Roll Morton was exaggerating when he claimed to have invented jazz music. No one can deny, _____ that Morton’s innovative compositions and remarkable improvisational skills helped shape jazz as a genre during its early years.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. therefore,
- B. in the second place,
- C. in other words,
- D. though,

ID: 3ca8ccc1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Though" logically signals that the claim in the sentence—that Morton’s improvisational skills helped shape jazz as a genre during its early years ("No one can deny" it)—is true despite the previous information about Morton’s exaggerated claim to have invented jazz.

Choice A is incorrect because "therefore" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is a result of the previous information about Morton’s claim to have invented jazz. Instead, the sentence states that Morton helped to shape jazz—even if his claim was an exaggeration. Choice B is incorrect because "in the second place" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is a second, separate point in addition to Morton’s claim to have invented jazz. Instead, the sentence states that Morton helped to shape jazz—even if his claim was an exaggeration. Choice C is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about Morton’s claim to have invented jazz. Instead, the sentence states that Morton helped to shape jazz—even if his claim was an exaggeration.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d098f23e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: d098f23e

Marcel Duchamp intended his 1917 so-called ready-made sculpture *Fountain* to challenge then-prevailing conceptions about the nature of art. _____ Duchamp’s *Fountain* did just that, raising the question of whether displaying any object in an art gallery could be said to transform the object—even, as Duchamp’s sculpture was, a urinal—into a legitimate work of art.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Indeed,
- C. Instead,
- D. In addition,

ID: d098f23e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Indeed" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the sculpture raised the question of whether displaying any object in an art gallery transforms the object into a work of art—offers emphasis in support of the claim in the previous sentence that the sculpture was intended to challenge conceptions about the nature of art.

Choice A is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that information in this sentence is similar to the claim about the sculptor’s intention in the previous sentence. Instead, the information about the question raised by the sculpture offers emphasis in support of that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an alternative to the claim about the sculptor’s intention in the previous sentence. Rather, the information about the question raised by the sculpture offers emphasis in support of that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely an additional fact related to the claim about the sculptor’s intention in the previous sentence. Instead, the information about the question raised by the sculpture offers emphasis in support of that claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8f3149a5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 8f3149a5

As a young historian in the 1950s, Alixa Naff began interviewing fellow Arab American immigrants about their experiences straddling two cultures. Over the next few decades, Naff conducted more than 450 such interviews, also known as oral histories. _____ she collected photographs and other artifacts that represented her subjects’ experiences.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. In addition,
- D. Today,

ID: 8f3149a5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "In addition" logically signals that Naff’s artifact collecting was separate from, and in addition to, her interviewing.

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information about Naff’s artifact collecting restates the previous information about her interviewing. Instead, Naff collected artifacts in addition to conducting interviews. Choice B is incorrect because "on the contrary" illogically signals that Naff’s artifact collecting was contrary to her interviewing. Instead, Naff collected artifacts in addition to conducting interviews. Choice D is incorrect because "today" illogically signals that Naff’s artifact collecting is occurring in the present day. Instead, this activity occurred in the past, as indicated by the past tense verb "collected."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 1f3c0891

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 1f3c0891

Phytoplankton play a crucial role in the ocean’s uptake of carbon from the atmosphere. When alive, these tiny marine organisms absorb atmospheric carbon via photosynthesis. _____ after they die, the phytoplankton sink to the seafloor, where the carbon in their cells gets stored in sediment, preventing it from cycling back into the atmosphere.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. By contrast,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Then,

ID: 1f3c0891 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Then” logically signals that the event described in this sentence—carbon in phytoplankton cells being trapped in sediment after the organisms have died—occurs later in a chronological sequence than the event described in the previous sentence (phytoplankton absorbing carbon while alive).

Choice A is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information that follows provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. Choice B is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information that follows contrasts with the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. There is no contrast: in both life and death, phytoplankton contribute to the ocean’s carbon uptake. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information that follows is in spite of the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. There is no contrast: in both life and death, phytoplankton contribute to the ocean’s carbon uptake.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2c6199c5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 2c6199c5

As biologist Terrie Williams has documented, deep dives present a challenge for seals and other marine mammals. A seal must exert enough energy to propel itself hundreds of meters downward, while keeping its heart rate low enough that it doesn’t run out of oxygen while underwater. _____ a seal moves its flippers as little as possible on a deep dive, gliding to conserve energy.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In the first place,
- B. On the other hand,
- C. For this reason,
- D. In comparison,

ID: 2c6199c5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “For this reason” logically signals that the behavior described in this sentence is a consequence of the information about seals in the previous sentence. That is, a seal moves its flippers as little as possible during a deep dive because it needs to keep its heart rate low enough that it does not run out of oxygen.

Choice A is incorrect because “in the first place” illogically signals that this sentence is the first point in a discussion. Instead, the sentence describes a behavior that is a consequence of the previous information about seals. Choice B is incorrect because “on the other hand” illogically signals that the behavior described in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about seals. Instead, it is a consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the behavior described in this sentence is being compared to the previous information about seals. Instead, it is a consequence of that information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d310318a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: d310318a

In Gothic architecture, flying buttresses are large arches that help support a building’s exterior walls. Before the Gothic era, cathedrals’ heavy ceilings had to be supported by thick, short walls, but the invention of flying buttresses eliminated this need. _____ Gothic cathedrals could be built with thinner, higher walls.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. For instance,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. As a result,

ID: d310318a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “As a result” logically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence were a result of the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence are similar to the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence. Instead, the walls were a result of that invention. Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence are an example supporting the statement about the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence. Instead, the walls were a result of that invention. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence occurred despite the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence. Instead, the walls were a result of that invention.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d15c457b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: d15c457b

Researchers believe that pieces of hull found off Oregon’s coast are from a Spanish cargo ship that was lost in 1697. Stories passed down among the area’s Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians support this belief. _____ Siletz stories describe how blocks of beeswax, an item the ship had been carrying, began washing ashore after the ship was lost.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For this reason,
- B. For example,
- C. However,
- D. Likewise,

ID: d15c457b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the Siletz beeswax stories mentioned in this sentence are examples consistent with the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory.

Choice A is incorrect because “for this reason” illogically signals that the Siletz stories about the beeswax were caused by the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory. Instead, the beeswax stories are examples consistent with the claim. Choice C is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the Siletz stories about the beeswax contrast with the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory. Instead, the beeswax stories are examples consistent with the claim. Choice D is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the Siletz stories about the beeswax are similar to the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory. Instead, the beeswax stories are examples consistent with the claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 42b13db6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 42b13db6

In 1949, Frank Zamboni developed an ice rink resurfacing machine. As Zamboni’s machine moved along the rink’s surface, it first scraped off the top layer of ice. _____ it sprayed water into the deep grooves left behind by customers’ skates. Lastly, it smoothed over the newly formed ice.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Next,
- C. Similarly,
- D. In contrast,

ID: 42b13db6 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Next" logically signals that the action in this sentence—the water spraying—is the next step in the resurfacing process, following the ice scraping mentioned in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the action in this sentence is an example of the action in the previous sentence. Instead, the water spraying is the next step in a process that begins with the ice scraping. Choice C is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the action in this sentence is similar to the action in the previous sentence. Instead, the water spraying is the next step in a process that begins with the ice scraping. Choice D is incorrect because "in contrast" illogically signals that the action in this sentence contrasts with the action in the previous sentence. Instead, the water spraying is the next step in a process that begins with the ice scraping.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b24342e7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: b24342e7

Geoscientists have long considered Hawaii’s Mauna Loa volcano to be Earth’s largest shield volcano by volume, measuring approximately 74,000 cubic kilometers. _____ according to a 2020 study by local geoscientist Michael Garcia, Hawaii’s Pūhāhonu shield volcano is significantly larger, boasting a volume of about 148,000 cubic kilometers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Secondly,
- B. Consequently,
- C. Moreover,
- D. However,

ID: b24342e7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “However” logically signals that this sentence, which indicates that the Pūhāhonu volcano may be larger than the Mauna Loa volcano, offers a contrast to or refutation of the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano.

Choice A is incorrect because “secondly” illogically signals that this sentence merely offers an additional or secondary point concerning the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano. Instead, the sentence offers a contrast to or refutation of that assumption. Choice B is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that this sentence offers a result or consequence of the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano. Instead, the sentence offers a contrast to or refutation of that assumption. Choice C is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that this sentence merely adds to the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano. Instead, the sentence offers a contrast to or refutation of that assumption.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 5a8846a0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 5a8846a0

Most conifers (trees belonging to the phylum Coniferophyta) are evergreen. That is, they keep their green leaves or needles year-round. However, not all conifer species are evergreen. Larch trees, _____ lose their needles every fall.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for instance,
- B. nevertheless,
- C. meanwhile,
- D. in addition,

ID: 5a8846a0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “For instance” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that larch trees lose their needles every fall—is an example supporting the claim in the previous sentence (that not all conifer species keep their leaves or needles year-round).

Choice B is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true in spite of the claim about conifer species in the previous sentence. Instead, it’s an example supporting that claim. Choice C is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is separate from (while occurring simultaneously with) the claim about conifer species in the previous sentence. Instead, it’s an example supporting that claim. Choice D is incorrect because “in addition” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely an additional fact related to the claim about conifer species in the previous sentence. Instead, it’s an example supporting that claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b8c6844e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: b8c6844e

In 1942, the 1,500-mile Alaska Highway was constructed in under nine months, largely due to the skilled work of nearly 4,000 African American soldiers from US Army engineering regiments. The soldiers’ contribution was overlooked for decades. _____ in 2017, lawmakers declared October 25 a day of recognition—“Alaska Highway Day”—for the troops who helped build this critical roadway.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Lastly,
- B. Then,
- C. Similarly,
- D. For example,

ID: b8c6844e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Then" logically signals that the event described in this sentence—lawmakers’ 2017 declaration of Alaska Highway Day—is part of a chronological sequence of events, occurring after the decades-long period in which the soldiers’ contribution was overlooked.

Choice A is incorrect because "lastly" illogically signals that this sentence presents the last of a series of points or reasons. Instead, it describes a later event occurring in a chronological sequence of events. Choice C is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about the soldiers’ contribution being overlooked for decades. Instead, it describes an event occurring after that decades-long period. Choice D is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example illustrating the previous information about the soldiers’ contribution being overlooked for decades. Instead, it describes an event occurring after that decades-long period.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e8a79e6a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: e8a79e6a

It has long been thought that humans first crossed a land bridge into the Americas approximately 13,000 years ago. _____ based on radiocarbon dating of samples uncovered in Mexico, a research team recently suggested that humans may have arrived more than 30,000 years ago—much earlier than previously thought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Similarly,
- C. However,
- D. In conclusion,

ID: e8a79e6a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “However” logically signals that the theory discussed in this sentence—that humans may have arrived in the Americas over 30,000 years ago—contrasts with the previously discussed theory that humans arrived around 13,000 years ago.

Choice A is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the theory in this sentence is the result of the theory discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, this theory contrasts with the previous one. Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the theory in this sentence is similar to the theory discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, this theory contrasts with the previous one. Choice D is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the theory in this sentence concludes or summarizes the discussion of the previous theory. Instead, this theory contrasts with the previous one.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 1f3147bf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 1f3147bf

After appropriate permissions are granted, a typical archaeological dig begins with a surveyor making a detailed grid of the excavation site. Then, the site is carefully dug, and any artifacts found are recorded and mapped onto the site grid. _____ the artifacts are removed, cataloged, and analyzed in a laboratory.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. Earlier,
- D. Finally,

ID: 1f3147bf Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Finally" logically signals that the actions in this sentence—the removal, cataloging, and analysis of artifacts—are the next and final steps in a process, following the previous actions of surveying, digging, recording, and mapping.

Choice A is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the actions in this sentence are an example of the actions in the previous sentence. Instead, the removal, cataloging, and analysis of artifacts are the next and final steps in a process. Choice B is incorrect because "on the contrary" illogically signals that the actions in this sentence are directly opposed to the actions in the previous sentence. Instead, the removal, cataloging, and analysis of artifacts are the next and final steps in a process. Choice C is incorrect because "earlier" illogically signals that the actions in this sentence occur before the actions in the previous sentence. Instead, the removal, cataloging, and analysis of artifacts are the next and final steps in a process.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 69383ab5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 69383ab5

Etched into Peru’s Nazca Desert are line drawings so large that they can only be fully seen from high above. Archaeologists have known of the lines since the 1920s, when a researcher spotted some from a nearby foothill, and they have been studying the markings ever since. _____ archaeologists’ efforts are aided by drones that capture high-resolution aerial photographs of the lines.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Currently,
- B. In comparison,
- C. Still,
- D. However,

ID: 69383ab5 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Currently” logically signals that the archaeologists’ use of drones (a current technology) to photograph the lines is the present-day continuation of the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence offers a comparison to the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of drones is the present-day continuation of that research. Choice C is incorrect because “still” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs despite the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of drones is the present-day continuation of that research. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs either despite or in contrast to the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of drones is the present-day continuation of that research.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3413c844

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 3413c844

In 2018, Kurt Luther and Vikram Mohanty created the web-based tool Civil War Photo Sleuth (CWPS). A user uploading an unknown Civil War soldier’s photograph to CWPS first tags the photo with all known information. _____ CWPS’s facial-recognition software analyzes twenty-seven different physical features and looks for matches to tagged images already in the database.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Then,
- B. In fact,
- C. Likewise,
- D. For example,

ID: 3413c844 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Then” indicates that the events in this sentence took place after the events in the previous sentence. Only after users upload images of unknown soldiers can those images be analyzed.

Choice B is incorrect. This transition is used to emphasize the truth of a statement that modifies the previous statement. But this sentence doesn’t modify the step described in the previous statement: instead, it introduces an entirely new step in the process. So “in fact” wouldn’t make sense here. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a new but related idea, which doesn’t make sense here. Analyzing the physical features in the uploaded photographs isn’t a similar idea, but rather the next step in the process. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn’t make sense here. Analyzing physical features is not an example of uploading and tagging an image.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 51b6c0c7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 51b6c0c7

By 1936, Spanish Romani dancer Carmen Amaya was known all over Spain for her powerful style of flamenco dancing. However, in July of that year, the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War made it difficult for her to perform in her home country. _____ Amaya left Spain to perform abroad, dancing for audiences across North and South America.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In comparison,
- B. As a result,
- C. First of all,
- D. For example,

ID: 51b6c0c7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “As a result” logically signals that the information in this sentence about Amaya leaving Spain to perform abroad is a result of the previous information about the Spanish Civil War.

Choice A is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is being compared to the previous information about the Spanish Civil War. Instead, Amaya leaving Spain is a result of that war. Choice C is incorrect because “first of all” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is the beginning of a sequence of events. Instead, Amaya leaving Spain is a result of the event (the outbreak of war) described in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example supporting the previous statement about the Spanish Civil War. Instead, Amaya leaving Spain is a result of that war.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 4c9ec798

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 4c9ec798

During a 2021 launch, Rocket Labs’ Electron rocket experienced an unexpected failure: its second-stage booster shut down suddenly after ignition. _____ instead of downplaying the incident, Rocket Labs’ CEO publicly acknowledged what happened and apologized for the loss of the rocket’s payload, which had consisted of two satellites.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Afterward,
- B. Additionally,
- C. Indeed,
- D. Similarly,

ID: 4c9ec798 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Afterward” logically signals that the events described in this sentence—the CEO’s public acknowledgment and apology—occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events.

Choice B is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the events described in this sentence merely occurred in addition to the rocket booster’s failure. Instead, they occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events. Choice C is incorrect because “indeed” illogically signals that the events described in this sentence emphasize or strengthen a statement made in the previous sentence. Instead, they occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events. Choice D is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the events described in this sentence are similar to the rocket booster’s failure. Instead, they occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 81c67064

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 81c67064

Before it unveiled a massive new gallery in 2009, the Art Institute of Chicago was only able to display about 5% of its art collection. _____ the museum is able to display close to 30% of its collection.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. For example,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Today,

ID: 81c67064 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Today" logically signals that the information in the sentence—that the museum is able to display close to 30% of its collection—is true of the Art Institute of Chicago as it exists in the present day after the previously mentioned unveiling of the massive new gallery in 2009.

Choice A is incorrect because "additionally" illogically signals that the information in the sentence is merely an additional fact related to the information about the museum before the new gallery opened. Instead, the sentence is about the museum in the present day after the new gallery opened. Choice B is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in the sentence exemplifies the previous information about the museum before the new gallery opened. Instead, the sentence is about the museum in the present day after the new gallery opened. Choice C is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information in the sentence is true despite the previous information about the museum before the new gallery opened. Instead, the sentence is about the museum in the present day after the new gallery opened.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f0752b00

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: f0752b00

Neuroscientist Karen Konkoly wanted to determine whether individuals can understand and respond to questions during REM sleep. She first taught volunteers eye movements they would use to respond to basic math problems while asleep (a single left-right eye movement indicated the number one). _____ she attached electrodes to the volunteers’ faces to record their eye movements during sleep.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. Next,
- C. For instance,
- D. In sum,

ID: f0752b00 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Next” logically signals that the action described in this sentence—Konkoly recording participants’ eye movements—is the next step in Konkoly’s experiment.

Choice A is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that this sentence specifies or elaborates on an aspect of the action described in the previous sentence. Instead, it describes the next step in Konkoly’s experiment. Choice C is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence is an example of the action described in the previous sentence. Instead, it is the next step in Konkoly’s experiment. Choice D is incorrect because “in sum” illogically signals that this sentence summarizes or concludes the action described in the previous sentence. Instead, it describes the next step in Konkoly’s experiment.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 89926ff8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 89926ff8

With darkness falling, a mother elephant loses sight of her calf and wants to make sure it is safe. _____ she releases an infrasonic call for the calf to hear. Infrasonic sound is below the range of human hearing, but many animals can hear these sounds from several miles away.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Nowadays,
- D. Similarly,

ID: 89926ff8 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "For this reason" is a cause-and-effect transition. The cause in this case is that the mother elephant wants to know that her calf is safe, so the effect is that she lets out an infrasonic call for the calf to hear. Therefore, "for this reason" fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces an example of a previous idea. But the second sentence doesn't provide an example of the events described in the first sentence. Instead, it describes what happens next: the mother elephant calls for her calf. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift from the past to the current time, which doesn't make sense here. Both sentences use the present tense, as they're describing the same time period. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates commonality or agreement between two ideas. But this sentence isn't similar to the events in the first sentence. Instead, it describes the events that happen next.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID dc31e849

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: dc31e849

Ballet dancer Misty Copeland has accomplished a lot. She has appeared on Broadway, toured with Prince, and even served on the President’s Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition. _____ according to Copeland, nothing in her career matches the honor of being the first African American woman named principal dancer at the prestigious American Ballet Theatre.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Thus,
- B. However,
- C. For example,
- D. Second of all,

ID: dc31e849 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "However" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that nothing in Copeland’s career matches her accomplishment of being the first African American woman named principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre—offers a contrast or exception to the previous information about Copeland’s accomplishments.

Choice A is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the information that follows is a result of the previous information about Copeland’s accomplishments. Instead, the statement that nothing in Copeland’s career matches this accomplishment offers a contrast or exception to that information. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that Copeland’s statement about her greatest accomplishment exemplifies the claim about her accomplishments in the previous sentence. Instead, it offers a contrast or exception to that information. Choice D is incorrect because "second of all" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second, separate claim from the previous sentence’s information about her accomplishments. Instead, the statement that nothing in Copeland’s career matches this accomplishment offers a contrast or exception to that information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b8963f12

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: b8963f12

Guard cells are specialized cells that are part of a plant’s pores. These cells help regulate the amount of carbon dioxide a plant takes in. _____ they help regulate a plant’s water loss.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. Previously,
- C. In conclusion,
- D. Instead,

ID: b8963f12 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Additionally" logically signals that guard cells’ role in regulating water loss is an additional function of these specialized plant cells that is separate from the function of regulating carbon dioxide intake.

Choice B is incorrect because "previously" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence occurs earlier in a chronological sequence of events than the regulation of carbon dioxide intake described in the previous sentence. Instead, regulating water loss is an additional function of guard cells that is separate from the function of regulating carbon dioxide intake. Choice C is incorrect because "in conclusion" illogically signals that the description of guard cells’ role in regulating water loss concludes or summarizes the information about guard cells provided in the previous sentences. Instead, regulating water loss is one of the two distinct functions of guard cells described in the text. Choice D is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence happens in place of the activity of regulating carbon dioxide intake described in the previous sentence. Rather, regulating water loss is an additional function of guard cells.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID de372b2c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: de372b2c

In 2014, Nestor Gomez won his first-ever storytelling competition, relating a tale about his life as a Guatemalan immigrant living in Chicago. _____ in 2017, Gomez created the show *80 Minutes Around the World* as a platform for others to share stories about their immigration experiences.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. For example,
- C. Later,
- D. In other words,

ID: de372b2c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Later" logically signals that the information in the sentence—that in 2017 Gomez created a platform for others to share stories about their immigration experiences—occurs later in a chronological series of events than the previous information about Gomez winning his first storytelling competition in 2014.

Choice A is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that Gomez created a platform for others to share stories about their immigration experiences as an alternative to winning his first storytelling competition. Rather, Gomez created the platform later—in a chronological series of events—than when he won the competition. Choice B is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information about Gomez creating a platform for others to share stories exemplifies his winning his first storytelling competition. Rather, Gomez created the platform later—in a chronological series of events—than when he won the competition. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information about Gomez creating a platform for others to share stories is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about Gomez winning his first storytelling competition. Rather, Gomez created the platform later—in a chronological series of events—than when he won the competition.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e2976a3f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: e2976a3f

Laetitia Ky’s hair is her art. Inspired by hairstyles from various African tribes, the Ivorian artist uses wire and thread to sculpt her hair into all kinds of shapes. _____ she once made her hair into the shape of the continent of Africa—including the island of Madagascar!

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Soon,
- B. Elsewhere,
- C. For example,
- D. However,

ID: e2976a3f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the following information about Ky—that she once shaped her hair to look like Africa—is an example supporting the previous statement that she makes different shapes with her hair.

Choice A is incorrect because “soon” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred soon after the statement about Ky making different shapes with her hair. Instead, the sentence provides an example of one of these shapes. Choice B is incorrect because “elsewhere” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred in a different place than the statement about Ky making different shapes with her hair. Instead, the sentence provides an example of one of these shapes. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the statement that Ky makes different shapes with her hair. Instead, the sentence provides an example of one of these shapes.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 5eaafb74

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 5eaafb74

In order to create the Global Positioning System (GPS), scientists had to develop an accurate mathematical model of Earth’s shape that accounted for various forces, such as tides. _____ it was mathematician Gladys West who wrote the computer program that could perform these necessary calculations.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Ultimately,
- B. In other words,
- C. Secondly,
- D. In addition,

ID: 5eaafb74 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Ultimately" logically signals that West’s completion of the computer program was the conclusion of the process described in the previous sentence, in which scientists working on GPS sought to develop a mathematical model of Earth.

Choice B is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information about West’s program is a restatement of the information about the scientists’ efforts to develop a mathematical model of Earth. Instead, West’s program was the conclusion of those efforts. Choice C is incorrect because "secondly" illogically signals that West’s completion of the computer program was merely the next step in the scientists’ efforts to develop a mathematical model of Earth. Instead, West’s program was the conclusion of those efforts. Choice D is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that West’s completion of the computer program was merely additional information related to the scientists’ work on GPS. Instead, West’s program was the conclusion of the scientists’ efforts to develop a mathematical model of Earth.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 4e693aea

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 4e693aea

In the search for extraterrestrial life, astrobiologists Stuart Bartlett and Michael L. Wong propose that scientists avoid using the term “life.” _____ researchers should use another word: “lyfe.” This new term, they argue, could be used to draw distinctions between the known characteristics of life on Earth and the potentially differing characteristics of lyfe on other planets.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Previously,
- B. Regardless,
- C. There,
- D. Instead,

ID: 4e693aea Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Instead" logically signals that the idea in this sentence—that researchers should use the word "lyfe"—is an alternative to the idea mentioned in the previous sentence (scientists’ use of the word "life").

Choice A is incorrect because "previously" illogically signals that the idea in this sentence occurs before the action in the first sentence. Instead, the use of "lyfe" is an alternative to the previously mentioned use of "life." Choice B is incorrect because "regardless" illogically signals that the idea in this sentence is true despite the information in the first sentence. Instead, the use of "lyfe" is an alternative to the previously mentioned use of "life." Choice C is incorrect because "there" illogically signals that the idea in this sentence occurs in a place mentioned in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of "lyfe" is an alternative to the previously mentioned use of "life."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 7e64f358

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 7e64f358

The French directors Colas Koola and Vivien Mermet-Guyenet (known as Koola and Viv) founded the video game studio BlueTwelve. They also love cats. _____ they created an award-winning cat video game, *Stray* (2021), that lets the player explore a dystopian city from the perspective of a clever orange house cat.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Intermittently,
- B. On the other hand,
- C. In fact,
- D. Nevertheless,

ID: 7e64f358 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "In fact" logically signals that the information in this sentence about the creation of the video game offers additional emphasis in support of the previous claim that video game studio founders Koola and Viv love cats.

Choice A is incorrect because "intermittently" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurs sporadically or in intervals. Instead, the creation of the video game offers additional emphasis in support of the previous claim about Koola and Viv. Choice B is incorrect because "on the other hand" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous claim about Koola and Viv. Instead, the creation of the video game offers additional emphasis in support of that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous claim that Koola and Viv love cats. Instead, the creation of the video game offers additional emphasis in support of that claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 45f91dff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 45f91dff

In 1968, US Congressman John Conyers introduced a bill to establish a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The bill didn’t make it to a vote, but Conyers was determined. He teamed up with Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to be elected to Congress, and they resubmitted the bill every session for the next fifteen years. _____ in 1983, the bill passed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. Likewise,
- C. Finally,
- D. Additionally,

ID: 45f91dff Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Finally” logically signals that the bill passing—following many attempts between 1968 and 1983—is the final, concluding event in the sequence described in the previous sentences.

Choice A is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the bill passing is an alternative to one of the events described in the previous sentences. Instead, it is the final event in the sequence. Choice B is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the bill passing is similar to one of the events described in the previous sentences. Instead, it is the final event in the sequence. Choice D is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the bill passing is merely another event described along with the events of the previous sentences. Instead, it is the final, concluding event in the sequence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b99fa9c1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: b99fa9c1

Spanish surrealist Oscar Dominguez, like many of his contemporaries, wanted to incorporate elements of chance and randomness in his artistic process. _____ he employed techniques that produced random, unpredictable results, such as decalcomania, which involved pressing a blank canvas onto a paint-covered surface to generate abstract patterns.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. With this in mind,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. In conclusion,
- D. Regardless,

ID: b99fa9c1 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "With this in mind" logically signals that the activity described in this sentence—Dominguez’s use of techniques like decalcomania to produce unpredictable abstract patterns—is a result of his desire to include random elements in his art.

Choice B is incorrect. "On the contrary" illogically signals that the activity in this sentence opposes or is contrary to Dominguez’s desire to use random elements in his art. Instead, his use of decalcomania is a result of that desire. Choice C is incorrect. "In conclusion" illogically signals that the activity in this sentence is a conclusion or summary of Dominguez’s desire to use random elements in his art. Instead, his use of decalcomania is a result of that desire. Choice D is incorrect. "Regardless" illogically signals that the activity in this sentence occurs despite Dominguez’s desire to use random elements in his art. Instead, his use of decalcomania is a result of that desire.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a1ca8a56

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: a1ca8a56

Few New Yorkers have heard Thelma Pollard’s name. _____ many have seen her work in the famous Broadway musical *The Phantom of the Opera*. As the musical’s longtime makeup supervisor, Pollard put the iconic makeup on the face of the Phantom himself.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Therefore,
- C. For example,
- D. However,

ID: a1ca8a56 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "However" logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that many New Yorkers have seen Pollard’s work in a famous Broadway musical—is true despite the previous information that few New Yorkers have heard Pollard’s name.

Choice A is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to the previous information that few New Yorkers have heard Pollard’s name. Instead, the claim that many New Yorkers have seen Pollard’s work is true despite the previous information. Choice B is incorrect because "therefore" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is a result of the previous information that few New Yorkers have heard Pollard’s name. Instead, the claim that many New Yorkers have seen Pollard’s work is true despite the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence exemplifies the previous information that few New Yorkers have heard Pollard’s name. Instead, the claim that many New Yorkers have seen Pollard’s work is true despite the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID de51231b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: de51231b

Famous for its four-degree tilt, the leaning Garisenda Tower is a popular attraction in Bologna’s city center. However, measurements taken in 2023 showed that the tower was rotating in a concerning way. _____ city officials closed the area around the tower so experts could explore solutions to stabilize the historical twelfth-century structure.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. As a result,
- C. For example,
- D. In comparison,

ID: de51231b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "As a result" logically signals that the action described in this sentence—closing the area around Garisenda Tower to explore stabilization solutions—occurred as a consequence or result of measurements revealing the tower’s concerning rotation.

Choice A is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the action of closing the tower area is similar to the discovery of concerning rotation described in the previous sentence. Instead, closing the area around the tower to explore solutions occurred as a result of the measurements revealing the rotation. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the action of closing the tower area serves as an example of the tower’s concerning rotation described in the previous sentence. Instead, closing the area around the tower to explore solutions occurred as a result of the measurements revealing the rotation. Choice D is incorrect because "in comparison" illogically signals that the action of closing the tower area is being compared to the discovery of concerning rotation described in the previous sentence. Instead, closing the area around the tower to explore solutions occurred as a result of the measurements revealing the rotation.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 97da78d2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 97da78d2

“O2 Arena,” an award-winning science fiction story by Nigerian author Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, takes place in an alternate version of Nigeria where breathable air is a rare commodity that is owned and sold by companies. _____ people must purchase it with currency called O2 credits.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. In any case,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Earlier,

ID: 97da78d2 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The second sentence describes a consequence of the system laid out in the first sentence: because air is owned and sold by companies in this world, people have to buy it.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that means “no matter what happens” or “whatever the situation is,” which doesn’t make sense here. There’s only one situation described in the text: a fictional world in which companies own all the breathable air, forcing people to buy it. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. They both describe the same fictional situation. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift back in time, which doesn’t make sense here. Both sentences use the present tense, as they’re describing the same fictional time period.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a0048df6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: a0048df6

Many butterfly species have bold, brightly colored wings. _____ some butterfly species have wings that are almost completely colorless and transparent. Glasswing butterflies, for example, have see-through wings that make them nearly invisible.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Previously,
- C. In other words,
- D. However,

ID: a0048df6 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "However" logically signals that the information in this sentence about butterfly species—that some have colorless, transparent wings—contrasts with the previous information about butterfly species with bold, colorful wings.

Choice A is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about butterfly species. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information. Choice B is incorrect because "previously" illogically signals that this sentence describes an event that occurred before another event. Instead, the sentence provides information about butterfly species that contrasts with the information in the first sentence. Choice C is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about butterfly species. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e70d7967

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: e70d7967

Riley Black—the author of critically acclaimed books such as *My Beloved Brontosaurus* (2013)—is best known for writing about dinosaurs, but she has also conducted hands-on fieldwork. _____ her fieldwork has included paleontological digs in Utah, Montana, and Wyoming, and her dinosaur fossil discoveries can be seen at places such as the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. Subsequently,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Conversely,

ID: e70d7967 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The second sentence provides more specific information about the fieldwork mentioned in the first sentence—that the paleontological digs took place in Utah, Montana, and Wyoming. Therefore, “specifically” fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Rather, this sentence agrees with and elaborates on the last sentence by providing more specifics about the fieldwork Black does. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates that an event took place after another event. But the two sentences are not describing different events—instead, this sentence gives more details about the fieldwork discussed in the first sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Rather, this sentence agrees with and elaborates on the last sentence by providing more specifics about the fieldwork Black does.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c0c20ca3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: c0c20ca3

A potter choosing which type of clay to use for a piece considers two key factors: the desired look of the piece and its intended use. _____ earthenware clay is often used for decorative pieces because of its rustic look. This type of clay is not often used in industrial settings, though, because it is less durable than other clays.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Regardless,
- C. In conclusion,
- D. For example,

ID: c0c20ca3 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The previous sentence tells us that potters think about the look and use of a piece when selecting clay. This sentence provides a specific example of a type of clay selected for its appearance, so the transition "for example" fits perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a restatement of the same idea. But this sentence does more than just restate the previous idea. Instead, it provides a more specific example of the idea presented in the first sentence. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence actually agrees with the previous sentence. Both sentences suggest that desired look plays a role in the selection of clay types for pottery pieces. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a concluding transition. But this sentence doesn't sum up the previous sentence. Instead, it gives a specific example of the idea presented in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d10fc56f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: d10fc56f

Small, flat structures called spatulae are found at the tips of the hairs on a spider’s leg. These spatulae temporarily bond with the atoms of whatever they touch. _____ spiders are able to cling to and climb almost any surface.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. However,
- C. Similarly,
- D. As a result,

ID: d10fc56f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “As a result” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that spiders can cling to and climb almost any surface—is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae.

Choice A is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence exemplifies the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the claim is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae. Choice B is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the claim is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae. Choice C is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to, but separate from, the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the claim is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 24c73d92

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	Easy

ID: 24c73d92

Every chemical compound has a spectroscopic fingerprint, a pattern of reflected light unique to that compound. _____ upon analyzing the light reflected by the bright regions on the surface of the dwarf planet Ceres, Maria Cristina De Sanctis of Rome’s National Institute of Astrophysics was able to determine that the regions contain large amounts of the compound sodium carbonate.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. Meanwhile,
- C. Thus,
- D. In comparison,

ID: 24c73d92 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Thus” logically signals that the action described in this sentence—the researcher being able to determine the chemical makeup of the planet’s bright regions based on how they reflect light—is a result or consequence of the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints.

Choice A is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs despite the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints. Instead, the finding in this sentence is a result or consequence of that information. Choice B is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence either occurs at the same time as or offers an alternative to the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints. Instead, the finding in this sentence is a result or consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence is being compared with the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints. Instead, the finding in this sentence is a result or consequence of that information.

Question Difficulty: Easy