

MEETING 9

TRANSITION QUESTIONS

A. OBJECTIVES

After studying this material, students are able to:

1. determine what probably came before or after the reading passage

B. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

Activity 1. Participating in Classroom Discussion

Read the following text.

“ ...My alarm clock was set for PM instead of AM. I woke up really late. I just threw on some clothes and ran out the door. I went to school in super-hurry. I went to school by bike.

I rode my bike as fast as I could. I thought I was going to be late. When I got there, everyone was outside and there were firetrucks all lined up in front of the school. I guess somebody pulled the fire alarm before class started. It worked out though, because nobody really noticed or minded that I was tardy.”

(adopted from <https://wiki.ezvid.com/m/5-examples-of-chronological-order-VGhX33rsoXsfk>)

A key quality of an effective passage is unity. A unified passage sticks to one or more ideas in each paragraph in which every sentence contributes to the central purpose and main idea. Those paragraphs need to be clearly connected so that readers can follow along, recognizing how one idea leads to the next. A passage with clearly connected paragraph within connected sentences is said to be coherent. To make it so, transitional words are needed.

Activity 2. Learning Transitional words

Transitional words are chosen to be written in a text for some purposes. They are accordingly grouped to their respective purpose as follows:

1. To add extra information

and also	finally	likewise
additionally	first, second, third,	moreover
alternatively	and etc	not only
and then	following this	but also...
apart from	further	not to mention
as well	furthermore	or
as well as	indeed	then
besides	in addition (to)	too
besides that	in fact	

coupled with	last, lastly	what is more
equally important	last but not least	

2. To give examples

for example	in particular	specifically
as an example	in this situation	such as
chiefly	including	take the case of
for instance	markedly, namely,	to demonstrate
especially	notably	to illustrate
illustrated with	on this occasion	as an
in this case	particularly	illustration
in another case	in particular	

3. To clarify the information you have presented

above all I mean	in other words
in this case	that is to say
to put it	in another way
under certain circumstances	up to a point
what I mean is	

4. To present consequence

accordingly	as a result	consequently
for this reason	for this purpose	hence, thus
in that case	otherwise	so then
subsequently	therefore	therefore
thereupon	under those circumstances	

5. To generalize information and facts

As a rule
As usual
For the most part
Generally speaking
Ordinarily

6. To compare and contrast

But	by the same token	by way of contrast
Conversely	equally	however
in contrast	in a like manner	instead

likewise	nevertheless	on one hand
on the other hand	on the contrary	rather similarly
still though	whereas	
while	yet	

7. To present sequential information

Afterward	the meantime	first of all
at the same time	to begin with	first/second/third/last/lastly
earlier	simultaneously	the next step
now	at first	then
in the first place	in time	soon
in turn	for the time being	while
later on	for	meanwhile
next		later

8. To summarize

after all	all in all	all things considered
as final point	briefly	altogether
by and large	finally	in a word
in any case	in any event	in brief
in conclusion	in short	in summary
in the end	in the final analysis	in the long run
lastly	on balance	on the whole overall
to conclude	to put it briefly	to sum up
to summarize		

(Source: <http://i-courses.org/docs/TOEFL%20iBT%20Transitional%20Words>)

It is important to understand the author's text organization to assist you in improving your ability to read academic passages. By recognizing organizational structure, you also can better understand academic writing. A text is generally organized by introduction, body, and conclusion. An introduction defines the subject and often uses a predictor to divide it into subtopics. The body is where each of the subtopics is discussed. Conclusion, on the other hand, contains a summary; a statement indicating the importance of the information, and a transition to the next section.

Activity 3. Learning Transition Questions

You will sometimes be asked to determine what a probably came before the reading passage (in the preceding paragraph) or what probably comes after the reading passage (in the following paragraph). Of course, the topic of the preceding or following paragraph is not directly stated, and you must draw a conclusion to determine what probably is in the paragraph. This type of question asks you to demonstrate that you understand that good writing contains transition from one paragraph to the next. A paragraph may start out with the idea of the previous paragraph as a way of linking the ideas in the two paragraphs. A paragraph may also end with an idea that will be further developed in the following paragraph.

TIPS FOR ANSWER THE TRANSITION QUESTION CORRECTLY

(Taken from Phillips, D. 1952)

1.	How to identify the question	The paragraph preceding the passage probably discusses
		What is the most likely in the paragraph following the passage?
2.	Where to find the answer	The answers can generally be found in the first line of the passage for a preceding question.
		The answer can generally be found in the last line for a following question
3.	How to answer the question	Read the first line for a <i>preceding</i>
		Read the last line for a <i>following</i>
		Draw a conclusion about what comes before or after.
		Choose the answer that is reflected in the first or last line of the passage.

C. EXERCISES ON Transition Questions

Another myth of the oceans concerns Davy Jones, who in folklore is a mean-spirited sovereign of the ocean's depths. The name "Jones" is thought by some etymologists to have been derived from the name "Jonah", the Hebrew prophet who spent three days in a whale's belly.

According to tradition, any object that goes overboard and sinks to the bottom of the ocean is said to have gone to Davy Jones's locker, the ocean-sized, mythical receptacle for anything that falls into the water. Needless to say, any sailor on the seas is not so eager to take a tour of Davy Jones's locker, although it might be a rather interesting trip considering all the treasures located there.

1. The paragraph **preceding** this passage most probably discusses
 - A. the youth of Davy Jones
 - B. Davy Jones's career as a sailor
 - C. a different traditional story from the sea
 - D. preparing to travel on the ocean

Carbon tetrachloride is a colorless and inflammable liquid that can be produced by combining carbon disulfide and chlorine. This compound is widely used in industry today because its effectiveness as a solvent as well as its use in the production of propellants.

Despite its widespread use in industry, carbon tetrachloride has been banned for home use. In the past, carbon tetrachloride was a common ingredient in cleaning compounds that were used throughout the home, but it was found to be dangerous : when heated, it changes into a poisonous gas that can cause severe illness and even death if it is inhaled. Because of this dangerous characteristic, the United States revoked permission for the home use of carbon tetrachloride in 1970. The United States has taken similar action with various other chemical compounds.

2. The paragraph following the passage most likely discusses

- A. Additional uses of carbon tetrachloride
- B. The banning of various chemical compounds by the U.S government
- C. Further dangerous effects of carbon tetrachloride
- D. The major characteristic of carbon tetrachloride

The locations of stars in the sky relative to one another do not appear to the naked eye to change, and as a result stars are often considered to be fixed in position. Many unaware stargazers falsely assume that each star has its own permanent home in the nightmar sky.

In reality, though, stars are always moving, but because of the tremendous distances between stars themselves and from stars to earth, the changes are barely perceptible here. An example of a rather fast moving star demonstrates why this misconception prevails; it takes approximately 200 years for a relatively rapid star like Bernard's star to move a distance in the skies equal to the diameter of the earth' s moon. When the apparently negligible movement of the stars is contrasted with the movement of the planets, the stars are seemingly unmoving.

3. The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses

- A. The movement of the planets
- B. Bernard's star
- C. The distance from earth to the moon
- D. Why stars are always moving

The next hormone is epinephrine, or adrenaline. This hormone is a natural secretion of the adrenal glands in the human body. Its primary function in the human body is to assist the body in coping with sudden surges of stress. When a person unexpectedly finds himself in a stressful situation filled with fear or anger, a large amount of epinephrine is released into the blood and the body responds with an

increased heartbeat, higher blood pressure, and conversion of glycogen into glucose for energy to enable the body to deal with the stress.

It is possible to extract epinephrine from the adrenal glands of animals or to synthesize it chemically in order to put it to further use. It is used in the treatment of severe asthma, where it relaxes the large muscles of the bronchi, the large air passages leading into the lungs. It is also used in cases of severe allergic reaction or cardiac arrest.

4. The paragraph preceding the passage most probably discusses

- A. Further uses of epinephrine
- B. The treatment of cardiac arrest
- C. A different hormone
- D. The secretions of the adrenal glands

Sunlight appears to have no colors. We call it white light. It is really made up of different colors. When you see a rainbow, you see white light that has traveled through millions of falling raindrops.

White light is a mixture of all the colors of the rainbow, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet. When white light in a drop of rain, it changes direction is called refraction. Some orange colors in the light change direction more than other and so the white light separate into its different colors.

5. The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses

- A. White light
- B. Falling raindrops
- C. The change direction
- D. The mixture of color

Up to now, confessions that have been obtained from defendants in a hypnotic state have not been admitted into evidence by courts in the United States. Experts in the field of hypnosis have found that such confessions are not completely reliable. Subjects in a hypnotic state may confess to crimes they did not commit for one of two reasons. Either they fantasize that they committed the crimes or they believe that others want them to confess.

A landmark case concerning a confession obtained under hypnosis went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the case of *Layra V. Denno*, a suspect was hypnotized by a psychiatrist for the district attorney; in a posthypnotic state the suspect signed three separate confessions to a murder. The Supreme Court ruled that the confessions were invalid because the confessions had been the only evidence against him.

6. This passage would probably be assigned reading in a course on

- A. American law
- B. psychiatric healing
- C. parapsychology
- D. philosophy

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7. The paragraph preceding the passage most probably discusses
- A. further uses of epinephrine
 - B. the treatment of cardiac arrest
 - C. a different hormone
 - D. the secretions of the adrenal glands

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8. The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses
- A. the movement of the planets
 - B. Bernard's star
 - C. the distance from earth to the moon
 - D. why stars are always moving

The next artist in this survey of American artist is James Whistler; he is included in this survey of American artist because he was born in the United States, although the majority of his artwork was completed in Europe. Whistler was born in Massachusetts in 1834, but nine years later his father moved the family to St. Petersburg, Russia, to work on the construction of a railroad. The family returned to the United States in 1849. Two years later Whistler entered the U.S. military academy at West Point, but he was unable to graduate. At the age of twenty-one Whistler went to Europe to study art despite familial objections, and he remained in Europe until his death.

Whistler worked in various art forms, including etchings and lithographs. However, he is most famous for his paintings, particularly *Arrangement in Gray and Black No. 1: Portrait of the Artist's Mother or Whistler's Mother*, as it is more commonly known. This painting shows a side view of Whistler's mother, dressed in black and posing against a gray wall. The asymmetrical nature of the portrait, with his mother seated off-center, is highly characteristic of Whistler's work.

9. The paragraph preceding this passage most likely discusses

- A. A survey of eighteenth-century art
- B. a different American artist
- C. Whistler's other famous paintings
- D. European artists

10. The paragraph following this passage most likely discusses

- A. Further characteristic of Whistler's work
- B. Whistler's love to his mother
- C. Whistler's artworks
- D. Whistler's passion on art

D. REFERENCES

Phillips, D..(2003). Longman Preparation Course for the TOEFL Test. New York: Pearson Education.

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