

THE BEST ACT PREP COURSE EVER

TRANSITIONS

ACT English: Problem Set

1. A common learning mechanism, whether by humans or animals, is imitation. However, how birds learn to sing by listening to their elders and mimicking the sound.
A. NO CHANGE
B. For instance,
C. Moreover,
D. So far,
2. Even though the professor was a favorite to win the Kluge Prize, the judges decided that his work was not of the same caliber as the previous winner's.
A. NO CHANGE
B. Whenever
C. In fact,
D. Notwithstanding,
3. When you imagine a theme park, you often think of thrilling roller coasters and cotton candy. Being that heart-wrenching rides and sweet treats, the real magic of a theme park, in my opinion, is the behind the scenes magic: the control systems that make such rides possible.
A. NO CHANGE
B. Given that
C. Due to
D. But instead of
4. While they were used for different purposes, large pyramidal structures were built by both the Mayan and Egyptian civilizations. On the opposite side, the pyramidal structures in Egypt were used as tombs for great kings. The pyramidal structures in the kingdom of Maya were used for ceremonial purposes.
A. NO CHANGE
B. By now, the
C. The
D. Regardless, the
5. The museum houses four galleries, with the largest hosting four major exhibitions that change seasonally. Finally, the other three display collections of notable works from the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries.
A. NO CHANGE
B. Instead, the
C. On the contrary, the
D. The
6. Though the kiosk is easy to operate, Johnson believes that customers will prefer it to live attendants.
A. NO CHANGE
B. Since
C. Despite the fact that
D. Until
7. Electric cars have absolutely zero tailpipe emission. In fact, a study found that, on average, electric cars generate half the emissions of a comparable gas-powered vehicle, including the carbon footprint resulting from battery manufacturing and other machinery. As the case may be, electric vehicles also are more affordable in the long term since you don't have to pay for gasoline.
A. NO CHANGE
B. To sum up,
C. Particularly,
D. Moreover,
8. Books are read in Arabic from left to right, vowels are often excluded from the written words, and most letters have four different forms. Conversely, the Arabic language is extremely challenging for English speakers to learn.
A. NO CHANGE
B. Regardless,
C. For proof of this,
D. Consequently,
9. Even though my friend had highly recommended the hike for its scenic surroundings, my first trip, as a result, was not particularly scenic.
A. NO CHANGE
B. trip
C. trip, moreover,
D. trip, otherwise,
10. Wooden artifacts can be dated by analyzing their structure. Over time, trees grows new rings that can be counted and studied to find the age of the tree.
A. NO CHANGE
B. Surprisingly,
C. Otherwise,
D. On the other hand,
11. The university's new president, still unsure of the school's needs, decided to survey the faculty and staff for their opinions. Lastly, he used the survey results to create a list of priorities to address during the upcoming months.
A. NO CHANGE
B. In all honesty,
C. Then,
D. Furthermore,

12. The former architectural dig site was recently approved for rebuilding. Construction on a new hospital began; consequently, the builders soon found remains of more ancient ruins.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. however,
C. in any case,
D. in short,
13. During his lifetime many of his stories received publication only in literary magazines. It took years for his work to garner serious acclaim. Hailed now as one of the most influential writers of his time, moreover, Kafka has written many culturally significant short stories that continue to be studied in schools and universities today.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. in conclusion,
C. besides,
D. DELETE the underlined portion
14. One summer afternoon Joshua decided to create a family tree from old photographs. Besides, he asked his parents where the photographs were kept.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. Instead, he
C. As a result, he
D. Regrettably, he
15. I couldn't lift the weights even when I used the correct posture. Coincidentally, I decided to grab weights that were only a pound lighter, and then I was able to lift the weights.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. Likewise,
C. So
D. Anyway,
16. While aluminum cookware is reactive to acidic or alkaline food, stainless steel is completely non-reactive. In view of the foregoing, stainless steel lasts longer, holds heat better, and (because it is non-porous) is very hygienic.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. In contrast,
C. Admittedly,
D. What's more,
17. Perhaps it was the way the sun filtered through the branches of the oak tree that inspired me. Instead, I took my sketchbook out and started tracing patterns that mirror the shadows dancing on the ground.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. However, I
C. I
D. On the contrary, I
18. Maricela's favorite medium is charcoal, but sometimes she creates landscapes with pastels. Her final project for her art class this year, thereafter, was a pastel depiction of the Candaway River.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. for example,
C. in contrast,
D. regardless,
19. Studying abroad was an exciting cultural experience; I enjoyed exploring a new foreign city and familiarizing myself with the local customs. It was unavoidable, however, to feel homesick, especially during the first week.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. thus,
C. additionally,
D. instead,
20. Delicate artifacts from the past have to be carefully maintained. However, archaeologists must wash their hands thoroughly to remove the natural oils -- and any dirt -- and examine documents on flat surfaces to reduce the amount of handling time.
- A. NO CHANGE
B. For example,
C. Nevertheless,
D. Lastly,

21. Perhaps you've listened to a song once and wondered how the piano or the vocals were recorded in the studio -- was the piano played live, is there an actual singer featured on the song? It may be neither! A synthesizer, often shortened as a "synth," is an electronic instrument that can imitate sounds like those produced by a piano or the human voice, among others. In fact, those otherworldly electronic noises you imagine cannot be produced by any instrument you know may also be generated by a synthesizer. It is usually played with a musical keyboard and can also be controlled by sequencers, fingerboards, or electronic drums.

[21] These sound waves differ in duration, intensity, timbre, and frequency as dictated by the person playing. Some waveform synthesis techniques include subtractive synthesis, additive synthesis, and sample-based synthesis. Subtractive synthesis, for instance, eliminates unnecessary parts from a signal with a central tone and related overtones. On the other hand, additive synthesis builds tones from signals with pure tones, which have no related overtones.

Which choice, if added here, best introduces the topic of the second paragraph?

- A. Synthesizers can also be controlled with a USB or MIDI controller such as a MIDI keyboard.
- B. To produce sound, synthesizers generate electronic signals.
- C. The rise of synthesizers came in the 1960s, when they were first used in pop music.
- D. Yamaha brought synthesizers to the masses with its model Yamaha DX7.

22. Motown's most commercially successful act The Supremes shot to fame during the mid-1960s. The founding members included Betty McGlown, Mary Wilson, Florence Ballard, and Diana Ross. Barbara Martin took McGlown's place in 1960, and left in 1962. Singer and actress Ross led their trio during their prime. Initially named the Primettes, the vocal group is considered the one of the world's best girl groups in terms of number one singles and Billboard hits. [22] Primarily responsible for these chart-topping songs were The Supremes' songwriters and producers famously known as Holland-Dozier-Holland. At the height of the group's fame, Berry Gordy, Motown's president, chose to rename the group Diana Ross & the Supremes. However, Ross' exit in 1969 to pursue her own career forced the group to change the name to The Supremes once again.

The writer wishes to add a sentence here that will clearly lead the reader into the information to follow in this paragraph. Which of the following would best accomplish this purpose?

- A. With their impressive record-breaking discography, the group is known for their songs "Come See About Me" and "You Can't Hurry Love."
- B. Ross also pursued an acting career, starring in films such as *The Wiz* and *Mahogany*.
- C. After 18 years, the Supremes disbanded, with none of the original women in the group.
- D. In 1969 Ross began her solo career and shot to number one with songs "Love Hangover" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough."

23. Measuring over 555 feet, the Washington Monument is an obelisk built with marble, granite, and bluestone gneiss. It is topped with a pyramidion, or a capstone similar to that of an Egyptian pyramid. An elevator is used to access the top of the obelisk; this attraction draws more than 800,000 visitors every year.

Which of the following true statements would most effectively introduce this paragraph?

- A. Before the Eiffel Tower was built in 1889, the Washington Monument stood as the tallest structure in the world.
- B. The Washington Monument is located in the National Mall.
- C. Ancient Egyptians use to call obelisks "tekhenu," but the Greeks first used the word "obeliskos" that gave rise to their name today.
- D. Bluestone gneiss can be identified by striations called "gneissic banding" that results from foliation, or the layering of metamorphic rocks.

24. After spilling coffee on his hand then onto his lap while driving his daughter to school, Jay Sorensen brainstormed how to avoid burning one's hands while holding coffee cups. He invented the Java Jacket in 1991 and patented it in 1995. Sorensen first created these coffee cup sleeves with chipboard to fit over paper coffee cups with the goal of insulating the drinker's hands from the hot beverage. Nowadays, sleeves can be made out of textured paperboard, corrugated cardboard, or a range of other materials. [24] Even more, these sleeves can be used as promotional space for advertisements.

Given that all the following choices are true, which one would NOT provide a logical transition into the concluding sentence of the paragraph?

- A.** This versatility also comes into play when restaurants or coffee shops customize the look of their sleeves with their own logos or names.
- B.** Before coffee sleeves were invented, vendors had to use two cups nested together to prevent burning their customers' hands on a hot drink.
- C.** Store marketing also benefits from the adaptable nature of these sleeves.
- D.** The sleeves' flexibility in composition is also reflected in the outer segment where companies can brand their names across the length of the sleeve.

25. I used to think sea glass and beach glass were the same thing. Although both are formed by slowly dissolving in water, they are distinguished by the type of water that forms them. Sea glass is found on beaches next to areas with saltwater, while beach glass can be found near areas with freshwater. This is important because saltwater has a different pH balance from freshwater, which affects how readily glass is dissolved. Such a distinction is significant in a process like weathering, which wears away the surface of an object depending on the intensity and duration of exposure to the elements.

Which of the following true statements would most effectively introduce this paragraph?

- A.** The kinds of glass products that find their way into the water affect what colors of sea glass will be generated in later years.
- B.** Brown sea glass may come from beer bottles, which are made of glass with the same color.
- C.** Growing up, I used to spend every summer at my grandparents' beach house looking for sea glass or beach glass by the water.
- D.** The rarest colors of sea glass include gray, pink, yellow, black, and red.

ANSWER KEY

1. B 2. A 3. D 4. C 5. D 6. B 7. D 8. D 9. B 10. A 11. C 12. B 13. D 14. C
15. C 16. D 17. C 18. B 19. A 20. B 21. B 22. A 23. A 24. B 25. C

ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

1. B The transition “for instance” introduces an example of imitation as a learning mechanism. “However” signals something contrary to the previous phrase, but in this sentence the example is still relevant to the phrase preceding it.
2. A “Even though” is appropriately used as part of an dependent clause which contrasts with the independent clause that follows. “Notwithstanding,” is an adverb, so though it indicates contrast, would create a run-on sentence in this instance.
3. D “But instead of” is used to signal that the dependent clause has a different meaning to what was said in the previous phrase.
4. C The transition is not needed in this sentence because it clearly denotes the Egyptians, so “the opposite side” is awkward and unnecessary to differentiate between the Mayans and Egyptians. Trust the parallel structure-- there is no additional transitional material in the sentence after this one.
5. D “Finally” cannot be used in this sentence because it does not introduce a concluding phrase. The sentence merely adds detail to the previous sentence and because none of the transitions function to continue the phrase, the transition is removed altogether.
6. B The transition “since” replaces “though” because it introduces the reason why Johnson believes that customers prefer the kiosk. Also, “though” denotes the opposite to what follows it, so it cannot be used in this sentence.
7. D “Moreover” is used to further describe electric cars as the previous sentences have done. The phrase “as the case may be” is used to mean “according to the circumstances” in instances when a choice exists between two alternatives. (Ex: The government deployed search and rescue personnel on the ground, or on the water as the case may be, to assist with recovery efforts in Houston.)
8. D The best answer properly connects the first sentence, which contains evidence for the claim in the second sentence. The relationship is one of cause and effect or evidence and argument. The word “consequently” emphasizes that as a result of the features in the first sentence, the Arabic language is hard to learn.
9. B The transition “as a result” is not necessary because the sentence does not follow a cause and effect pattern. Notice the words “even though” at the beginning of the sentence? We already have words that tell us how both clauses relate to one another, so any other transition is not only inaccurate, but unnecessary.
10. A “Over time” appropriately introduces the sentence about the passage of time and the process of developing tree rings. Both ideas are connected to each other, and every other option indicates some degree of contrast that is ill suited for this sentence.
11. C The sentence describes two steps taken one after the other. Thus the best answer would indicate a continued, chronological relationship. “Then” replaces “Lastly” because the sentence describes the president’s next step in evaluating the school’s needs, but “Lastly” conflicts with the concept that the priorities will need to be addressed in the future. (B)/(D) do not relate to the idea of chronology.
12. B “However” replaces “consequently” because in context, finding more ruins would likely halt or alter the plans to build the hospital.
13. D The transition is not needed between the modifier and the independent clause. The ideas from sentence to sentence flow well as is. “Moreover” should only introduce a new, distinct idea (this sentence develops an idea already in play). “Besides” should introduce another reason or tangential benefit or drawback (Again this sentence develops off of the last one and contains sufficient transitional cues).

14. C "As a result" is used because it denotes that the act of asking his parents for photographs came after his decision to make the family tree. It may sound awkward, but the other choices do not logically fit in context.
15. C Grabbing the weights was a result of not being able to lift weights, so the transition "so" is used to show this reasoning. "So" indicates a casual cause-effect relationship. "Likewise" introduces a second parallel notion or example. "Coincidentally" describes something that happens at the same time. "Anyway" is a casual expression that indicates a departure from the previous thought.
16. D The relationship between the first and second sentence is one sentence with a single example of Stainless Steel's benefits and another sentence praising even more, distinct benefits. We need a word that indicates additional, parallel details-- a word such as "Also" or "Additionally." Thus "What's more" is correct. Choice (A) "in the view of the foregoing" would mean that knowledge of its non-reactive quality would inform the idea in the 2nd sentence (i.e. would be a cause for a decision made) -- that situation is not present in this sentence. "In contrast" is somewhat unclear: what is contrasting with what? These items are additional benefits, not elements of contrast. "Admittedly" is used to concede a point or admit to the limitations of an argument.
17. C The act of taking out the sketchbook is inspired by the way the sun was shining-- that's a cause effect relationship. None of the options match this sentiment, but rather all indicate contrast, so removing the transition entirely is the best answer.
18. B The first sentence indicates a universal pattern in Maricela's practice of art. The second sentence indicates a specific way she practiced art that fits the second idea in the first sentence. The transition "for instance" is appropriately used to introduce an example of how Maricela uses pastels. "Thereafter" signals something that happens after a specified time, and the first statement does not indicate chronology but a repeated pattern. The sense of contrast in choices (C) and (D) is incorrect.
19. A "However" is appropriately used in this sentence to denote a change in sentiment from the previous sentence about enjoying studying abroad.
20. B "For example" is used to introduce an example of how artifacts are handled. The first sentence is a general claim and the second offers specifics that explain in detail what is meant by that claim. In such instances, "for example" or "specifically" work well. "However" and "Nevertheless" signal a change in meaning, so it is not appropriate for describing an example in this sentence. "Lastly" would be appropriate if the level of specificity between the two sentences were more constant and they were more parallel in content and form.
21. B The second paragraph's second sentence references the determiner / noun "these sound waves" -- a phrase in need of clarification-- therefore whatever is chosen must include the idea of soundwaves. The choice that best introduces the topic of the second paragraph talks about "electronic signals" which could be synonymous with "sound waves." (B) is thus the best choice. Additionally, the sentences that follow it discuss the mechanics of soundwave formation and different techniques to produce them. All the other choices talk about the physical controls of the instrument or the commercial appeal of the synthesizer, so they lack relevance to the second paragraph. For more questions that are similar and involve determiners, see the grammar topic "SENTENCE PLACEMENT."
22. A The phrase "these chart topping songs" contains the trigger word "these" which indicates ambiguity. The sentence before this sentence must indicate specific chart topping songs to eliminate this ambiguity. We are left with (A) and (D), but (D) indicates information about a solo career and the sentence that follows is specifically about the Supremes. (D) furthermore has issues of chronology -- 1969 fits after this paragraph-- not in the middle of it. Additionally, sentence (A) best leads into the information about The Supremes' songwriters and producers contains details about their hit songs. This would make the most sense because it introduces the group's famous songs before detailing exactly who wrote and produced them. The other options talk about Ross' solo career and the date The Supremes disbanded, which are true facts but do not fit into the context of the songwriters and producers introduced in the paragraph.

23. A Because the entire paragraph deals with the height of the Washington Monument, the statement that introduces it should also relate to its height. Thus, the sentence discussing how it used to be the tallest structure in the world before the Eiffel Tower was built is the most effective. The other options talk about who the monument's location, what obelisks were called in ancient times, and one of the rocks used to build the monument, all of which are true but do not appropriately introduce the information about the monument's height.

24. B Sentence (B) fits with the overall topic of the paragraph, but interrupts the flow of the last two sentences which discuss the sleeve's usefulness and diverse functionality as a marketing tool. The versatility of the coffee cup sleeve material is demonstrated by the preceding sentence, which discusses the different paper products that can be used to make it. The last sentence of the paragraph continues this idea of versatility by describing how coffee sleeves can be used for branding or advertisement. Thus, the only option that does not provide a logical transition into this information describes how, before the coffee sleeve was created, vendors used to stack coffee cups to avoid burning their customers' hands. All the other options talk about customization, branding, and marketing, which flow seamlessly with the last sentence of the paragraph.

25. C The given sentence in the paragraph mentions "sea glass" and "beach glass" -- these are ambiguous nouns of a sort that must be mentioned or introduced in the first sentence in some way in order for the paragraph to flow. The statement that talks about the writer's experience looking for sea glass and beach glass as a child best introduces the paragraph because it links to the first sentence about the writer's thoughts about the two kinds of glass. The first person "I" connects the two sentences together and appropriately contextualizes why the writer had these thoughts in the first place. Further, the other options talk about the colors of sea glass and beach glass, which are not mentioned in the rest of the paragraph, or are too specific in nature to lead out this paragraph.