DIGITAL SAT · READING & WRITING

plainprep

SAT Transitions & Connectors Card

Works best online
Tap the answers and step through every example. This PDF has the same content, for printing.
plainprepsat.com/card/transitions-card.html

Made so that even a complete beginner can read it and understand: first you see the word in plain English, then **how it shows up in a question**, then a step-by-step worked example.

Compiled from the notes of someone who studied on their own and scored 1530 on the SAT.

1
Understand
See what each word does, with a short example sentence.

2
Recognize
Use the "If you see these in a question" box to spot the rule.

3
Solve
Follow the steps in the worked SAT-style example.

Topic map

1 **How Transition Questions Work** — name the relationship first
2 **Contrast & Concession** — however · still · that said
3 **Result & Reason** — therefore · thus · after all
4 **Addition & Emphasis** — in addition · in fact · actually
5 **Examples & Specifics** — for example · specifically
6 **Sequence, Time & Single Words** — then · ultimately · increasingly
7 **Comparison & Summary** — similarly · in comparison · overall
8 **Punctuation Around Connectors** — glue · bricks · interrupters
9 **Conjunctions Inside a Sentence** — although · because · despite
10 **Relative Connectors** — who · whom · which · whereby
11 **Word Finder & Recognition Map** — what you see → what you do

TRANSITIONS choose the word by its relationship · CONNECTORS · GRAMMAR joining words inside sentences

CORE RULE learn these first

How to read an example card? First the **QUESTION**, then the numbered **steps**, then the **ANSWER**. Follow the order: name the relationship, match the word group, eliminate. The gray line at the bottom shows a shortcut or a common mistake.

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INTRO

About this resource

This resource was compiled from notes kept during preparation by **someone who studied for the SAT on their own and scored 1530**. The notes collect the connecting words that appear on the test, what each one really does, and the rules for using them.

The goal is to put **every transition and connector worth knowing** in one place: the word, **how to spot it in a question**, and a worked example. Beginners and people who have already studied a bit can both scan it and practice quickly.

68	37	26
transition words sorted by job	worked SAT-style examples	practice questions with answers

One method for every transition
Name the relationship between the two sentences first. Then only one group of words is left.

Plain explanations, real test terms
Since the test is in English, terms appear in their original form, with simple explanations.

TRUST THE RELATIONSHIP, NOT YOUR EAR

Almost every transition "sounds fine" at the start of a sentence. The test checks the **relationship**. Name it first, then pick the word. And don't just read: **solve every example yourself before looking at the steps.**

ABOUT THE EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

The examples are **SAT-style questions written to teach each rule**, easy to medium on purpose, so you can apply the rule you just learned directly. They are not real test questions.

How should you study?

1. **Read Chapter 1 first.** The relationship-first method is the whole technique.
2. **If you are short on time:** read the word finder and the recognition map in Chapter 11 (about 10 minutes), then go to the chapters where you see gaps.
3. **Go through Chapters 2–7 in order:** every chapter is one family of relationships, with word cards and worked examples.
4. **Solve the example yourself first**: cover the steps and try; then check. The place where you get stuck is the place you need to study.
5. **Test yourself** with the "Try it now" questions at the end, then review Chapter 11. On the last day before the test, look only at that page.
6. **Practice.** Solve questions from the official Bluebook tests; this resource does not replace that practice, it speeds it up.

The example questions are SAT-style questions written to teach each rule; they are not real test questions. This is an independent study resource and is not affiliated with College Board.

MAP

Where connectors show up on the test

Connecting words are tested in **two places** on the Digital SAT Reading & Writing section (54 questions). The card follows the same split.

Expression of Ideas · Transitions

meaning

Choose the word that shows the right relationship between two sentences: contrast, cause and effect, example, sequence, comparison and more. Expression of Ideas has 8–12 questions on the test, and Transitions is one of its two skills (the other is Rhetorical Synthesis).

Chapter 1 · The Method | Chapter 2 · Contrast & Concession | Chapter 3 · Result & Reason | Chapter 4 · Addition & Emphasis | Chapter 5 · Examples & Specifics | Chapter 6 · Sequence & Time | Chapter 7 · Comparison & Summary

Standard English Conventions

grammar

Join sentences with the right punctuation, pick the right conjunction, and attach descriptions with who, whom, whose, which, where, when and whereby. Standard English Conventions has 11–15 questions on the test, in two skills: Boundaries, and Form, Structure, and Sense.

Chapter 8 · Punctuation Around Connectors | Chapter 9 · Conjunctions Inside a Sentence | Chapter 10 · Relative Connectors

Question counts are for the adaptive test, as published by College Board; the exact mix on your test may differ. For the full punctuation and grammar rules, see the separate **SAT Punctuation & Grammar Card**. Chapter 11 is the word finder and the recognition map.

1 How Transition Questions Work

One method: name the relationship first

TRANSITIONS CORE RULE

A transition question tests one thing: how does the second idea relate to the first? Learn to name the relationship and the four choices sort themselves.

IF YOU SEE THESE IN A QUESTION, THINK OF THIS RULE

- a blank at the start of a sentence
- four choices that are all words like However / Therefore / For example
- "most logical transition"
- a one-word choice followed by a comma

WHAT THE QUESTION LOOKS LIKE

A short text of two to four sentences with one blank, usually at the start of a sentence. The question asks: **"Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?"** All four choices are connecting words. Your only job: decide **how the sentence after the blank relates to the sentence before it**.

The relationship-first method

1. **Cover the choices.** Do not read them yet. They all sound fine at the start of a sentence, so they will only confuse you.
2. **Read the sentence before the blank and the sentence after it.** Ignore the blank.
3. **Name the relationship in plain words:** the opposite? a result? one more point? an example? the next step in time? the same idea restated?
4. **Now read the choices** and keep only the group that matches your relationship. Cross out the rest.
5. **Read the winner back** between the two sentences. If it sounds forced, re-check step 3.

First split: same direction or opposite direction?

OPPOSITE DIRECTION

idea 1 ← → idea 2

The second idea pushes against the first, or flips it. Use contrast and concession words (Chapter 2).

✓ The trail looked easy. **However,** it took us six hours.

SAME DIRECTION

idea 1 → idea 2

The second idea continues the first: a result, an extra point, an example, the next step, a restatement (Chapters 3–7).

✓ The trail looked easy. **In fact,** children walk it every day.

TWO TRAPS

1. Choosing by sound. A transition that "sounds smooth" can still show the wrong relationship. The relationship is the only thing the test checks. **2. Choosing by the word you like.** Use the words in the two sentences as clues (*but, yet, despite, because, first, later*), never your favorite connector.

SHORTCUT: TWINS CANCEL OUT

If two choices mean the same thing (for example **Therefore** and **Thus**), they cannot both be right, so cross both out. It does not come up often, but when it does it removes two choices at once.

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION Maria studied for weeks and reviewed every chapter twice. _____ she felt confident walking into the exam room.

A) However,
B) For instance,
C) Likewise,
D) As a result,

1. Before: Maria studied a lot. After: she felt confident.
2. Relationship: the second idea happens **because of** the first → same direction, cause then result.
3. A is the opposite direction. B needs an example, but "felt confident" is not an example of studying. C needs a second, parallel person or thing.

ANSWER **D) As a result,**

Test for results: can you put "because of that" between the sentences?

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION The recipe seems complicated at first. _____ most of the steps take less than five minutes.

A) Therefore,
B) However,
C) For example,
D) Similarly,

1. Before: "seems complicated". After: the steps are quick.
2. Relationship: the second idea **goes against** the first → opposite direction.
3. Only B is on the opposite side. A, C and D all continue the first idea.

ANSWER **B) However,**

Words like *seems*, *at first*, *appears* in sentence 1 often signal that a contrast is coming.

2 Contrast & Concession

However · Nevertheless · Still · That said · Regardless · Conversely · Admittedly

TRANSITIONS · CORE RULE · 40 questions in the bank

The second idea goes against the first, or the writer admits a point before arguing the other side. These words show up often as answers.

IF YOU SEE THESE IN A QUESTION, THINK OF THIS RULE

- However, Nevertheless, Still, Even so, That said
- Regardless, Conversely, In contrast, Instead
- Admittedly, Granted, Of course
- Alternatively, On the contrary, Otherwise, Rather, In any case
- but / yet / despite in the sentences
- two things compared side by side

However

Contrast · "but"

✓ The plan was cheap. **However,** it took twice as long.

The general-purpose contrast word. Safe when the second idea simply goes against the first.

Nevertheless / Nonetheless

Contrast · "in spite of that"

✓ The test failed twice. **Nevertheless,** the team tried again.

The second thing happens even though the first was a difficulty.

Still / Even so

Contrast · "despite that"

✓ The room was small. **Still,** it felt welcoming.

Same job as Nevertheless: the second thing happens despite the first. If it does not happen despite it (it is just a different case), use However. Only a contrast word when it starts a sentence and is followed by a comma.

That said

Contrast · "after saying that"

✓ The film is long. **That said,** it never feels slow.

A softer turn: the writer admits the first point, then adds the other side. Works like however / although.

Regardless

Contrast · "no matter what"

✓ Critics were harsh. **Regardless,** audiences kept coming.

The second idea stays true whatever was just said. Inside a sentence: regardless of + noun.

Conversely

Opposite · "the reverse is true"

✓ Higher prices reduce demand. **Conversely,** lower prices raise it.

Flips the first idea around. Both sentences usually follow the same pattern with opposite results.

In contrast / By contrast

Opposite · two things side by side

- ✓ Lake Erie often freezes. **By contrast,** Lake Ontario rarely does.

Compares two different subjects and shows how they differ. Not a fight between ideas.

Instead

Replacement · "not that, this"

- ✓ The firm did not cut costs. **Instead,** it raised prices.

The second idea replaces what the first sentence said did not happen.

On the other hand

Contrast · other side of a choice

- ✓ Renting is flexible. **On the other hand,** it builds no equity.

Weighs two sides of one decision or topic.

Admittedly

Concession · "I grant this point"

- ✓ **Admittedly,** the app has bugs. Even so, it saves time.

The writer admits a point that favors the other side. The pushback usually comes in the next sentence.

Granted / Of course

Concession · "it is true that"

- ✓ **Granted,** the course is hard. It is also worth it.

Same idea as Admittedly: a point is conceded first, then argued against.

Alternatively

Option · "another choice is"

- ✓ We could drive to the coast. **Alternatively,** we could take the train.

Offers a different option for the same situation. It puts a second possibility next to the first instead of arguing against it.

On the contrary

Contrast · "no, the opposite is true"

- ✓ The new rules did not slow the project. **On the contrary,** they sped it up.

Directly denies the first sentence, often after a negative. Stronger than however.

Rather

Replacement · "instead, more exactly"

- ✓ The results were not a mistake. **Rather,** they showed a real trend.

Replaces a wrong idea with the right one, usually after a sentence with not. Like Instead, but more of a correction.

Otherwise

Condition · "if that does not happen"

- ✓ Back up the file today. **Otherwise,** you may lose it.

Says what will happen if the first sentence is not true or not done. Often follows an instruction or a condition.

In any case

Dismissal · "whatever the situation"

- ✓ The forecast might change. **In any case,** the match starts at noon.

Sets a doubt or a detail aside and returns to the main point. The doubt in sentence 1 does not change sentence 2.

Yet / But

Contrast · inside a sentence

- ✓ The plan was risky, **but** it worked.

FANBOYS words (Chapter 8). With a comma, they join two full sentences. Do not stack them with however.

Contrast vs concession: who speaks first?

CONCESSION COMES FIRST

Admittedly X. Still, Y.

The blank sentence gives up a point to the other side. Look for the pushback in the sentence after it.

- ✓ **Granted,** the road is long. But the view is worth it.

PUSHBACK COMES SECOND

X. Still / That said / However, Y.

The blank sentence is the counter-point. The sentence before it carries the point being pushed back on.

- ✓ The road is long. **Still,** the view is worth it.

HOWEVER VS CONVERSELY VS IN CONTRAST

However = the second idea goes against the first. **Conversely** = the situation is turned around (high → low, cold → hot). **In contrast** = two different things are placed side by side. If you are unsure, **However** is the broadest, but check whether a sharper word is in the choices.

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **Many people assume a handmade guitar must be fragile. _____ the best ones are built to last for generations.**

A) However,
B) In addition,
C) Therefore,
D) Similarly,

1. Before: a common belief that handmade means fragile.
2. After: the best ones last for generations. That **goes against** the belief.
3. Relationship: contrast. Only A is a contrast word.

ANSWER **A) However,**

A belief, then "but the truth is..." is a classic contrast setup.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **The new library is far from the town center. _____ it has quickly become the busiest building in the area.**

A) Admittedly,
B) Nevertheless,
C) As a result,
D) Specifically,

1. The first sentence is a drawback (distance). The second says something good happened anyway.
2. Relationship: the second idea happens **in spite of** the first → Nevertheless.
3. A is wrong: Admittedly would concede a point, but "busiest building" is the pushback, not the concession.

ANSWER **B) Nevertheless,**

Ask: which sentence is the concession, and which is the pushback? The blank sentence is the pushback here.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **In cold climates, dark roofs help warm a house by absorbing sunlight. _____ in hot climates, light-colored roofs keep buildings cooler by reflecting it.**

A) Similarly,
B) For example,
C) Consequently,
D) Conversely,

1. Both sentences have the same pattern (roof color + effect) but with opposite results.
2. The situation is turned around → Conversely.
3. A says the two work the same way. B and C do not fit: sentence 2 is not an example or a result of sentence 1.

ANSWER **D) Conversely,**

Same structure, opposite result: think Conversely.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **The festival's ticket prices are high. _____ the organizers argue that the money pays for free concerts at local schools.**

A) Therefore,
B) For instance,
C) That said,
D) Subsequently,

1. Sentence 1 states a drawback. Sentence 2 gives the organizers' side.
2. Relationship: a point is admitted, then the other side is added → That said.
3. A would mean the high prices cause the argument. B and D do not fit the meaning.

ANSWER **C) That said,**

That said works like "however", but sounds like a speaker who admits the first point.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION The new tax was not meant to slow the economy. _____ lawmakers argued it would protect small shops.

A) On the contrary,
B) In addition,
C) For instance,
D) Subsequently,

1. Sentence 1 says what the tax was not meant to do. Sentence 2 says the opposite.
2. Relationship: sentence 2 denies sentence 1 → On the contrary.
3. B adds a similar point. C gives an example. D would only say "later".

ANSWER **A) On the contrary,**

A "not ..." sentence followed by the opposite idea: think On the contrary / Rather.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION Submit the form before Friday. _____ your application will not be reviewed.

A) Otherwise,
B) Similarly,
C) For example,
D) Meanwhile,

1. Sentence 1 is an instruction. Sentence 2 says what happens if it is not followed.
2. Relationship: "if you do not" → Otherwise.
3. B would need a parallel case. C would need an example. D is about time.

ANSWER **A) Otherwise,**

Instruction + a warning about what happens if not = Otherwise.

3 Result & Reason

Therefore · Thus · Hence · Consequently · Accordingly · In so doing · After all

TRANSITIONS · CORE RULE · 30 questions in the bank

The second idea happens because of the first (cause → effect). One reason word, After all, runs the other way.

IF YOU SEE THESE IN A QUESTION, THINK OF THIS RULE

Therefore, Thus, Hence, Consequently | As a result, Accordingly, As such | In so doing | To this end | After all

the second sentence happens because of the first

Therefore

Result · "for that reason"

✓ The bridge was damaged. **Therefore,** officials closed it.

The second idea follows logically from the first.

Thus

Result · "so, in this way"

✓ The trains run on electric power. **Thus,** they produce no exhaust.

Same job as therefore, a little more formal. Can also mean "in this way".

Hence

Result · "for this reason"

✓ The area floods often, **hence** the tall stilts.

Formal, often followed by a short phrase. On the test it behaves like therefore.

Consequently

Result · "so, as an outcome"

✓ The river rose again. **Consequently,** the town voted for a flood wall.

A result that follows from a chain of events.

As a result

Result · "because of that"

✓ The shop moved. **As a result,** sales doubled.

The most flexible result phrase. Works with events and with facts.

Accordingly

Result · "in line with that"

✓ The rules changed. **Accordingly,** schools updated their handbooks.

The second idea is an action or decision that fits what the first sentence says.

As such

Result · "being that kind of thing"

✓ The museum is a nonprofit. **As such,** it relies on donors.

Points back to what the previous subject *is*. The next subject is that same thing.

In so doing

Result · "by doing that"

✓ The city cut the budget. **In so doing,** it saved millions.

Refers to an **action** in the previous sentence. The subject after it is the doer of that action.

To this end

Purpose · "for that goal"

✓ The library wanted more young readers. **To this end,** it opened a teen reading room.

Links an action to a goal named in the previous sentence. The second sentence says what was done to reach it.

One word that points backward

After all

Reason · "because, as you know"

✓ Hire her. **After all,** she has ten years of experience.

Looks backward: the second sentence explains **why** the first is true. Not a result word.

Result or just "next"?

RESULT = BECAUSE OF

A → therefore → B

B happens because of A. Words: therefore, thus, hence, consequently, as a result, accordingly.

✓ It rained all week. **Therefore,** the river rose.

SEQUENCE = AFTER, NOT BECAUSE

A → later → B

B simply comes after A in time. Words: subsequently, afterward, then (Chapter 6).

✓ It rained all week. **Afterward,** the sun came out.

THE "BECAUSE OF THAT" TEST

Put **"because of that"** between the two sentences. If it still makes sense, you need a result word. If it does not, look for a sequence, example, or addition word. And remember: result words point **forward** (cause → effect). If the second sentence is the **reason** for the first (effect → cause), use **After all**.

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE SAT-style question

QUESTION **The river rose over its banks for the third time this year. _____ the town voted to build a flood wall.**

A) In contrast,
B) Consequently,
C) For instance,
D) Meanwhile,

1. Floods happened again. The town built a wall. "Because of that" fits between them.
2. Relationship: result.
3. A flips the idea, C needs an example, D needs two things happening at the same time.

ANSWER **B) Consequently,**

Look for a problem followed by an action: usually a result.

WORKED EXAMPLE SAT-style question

QUESTION **The nonprofit rebuilt the old library using recycled materials. _____ it kept more than 200 tons of debris out of landfills.**

A) Conversely,
B) Admittedly,
C) In so doing,
D) In comparison,

1. Sentence 1 names an action (rebuilt using recycled materials).
2. Sentence 2 says what was achieved by doing it, and the subject (it) is the doer.
3. Relationship: result of an action → In so doing.

ANSWER **C) In so doing,**

In so doing = "by doing that". It needs an action before it.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION The committee should approve the proposal. _____ it costs less than the alternative and finishes sooner.

A) Therefore,
B) Nevertheless,
C) After all,
D) Subsequently,

1. Sentence 2 explains **why** the committee should approve. That is effect → cause, not cause → effect.
2. So a result word like Therefore points the wrong way. After all introduces the reason.

ANSWER C) After all,

If sentence 2 is the reason for sentence 1, think After all.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION The city expects heavy snow this weekend. _____ crews have been told to report for extra shifts on Friday night.

A) Accordingly,
B) Nevertheless,
C) Similarly,
D) Previously,

1. Sentence 1 gives a forecast. Sentence 2 is an action taken to fit it.
2. Relationship: result / action in line with the situation → Accordingly.

ANSWER A) Accordingly,

Accordingly = "so, in line with that".

4 Addition & Emphasis

In addition · Moreover · Besides · In fact · Indeed · Actually

TRANSITIONS

24 questions in the bank

The second idea adds one more point, makes the first stronger, or corrects what people expect.

IF YOU SEE THESE IN A QUESTION, THINK OF THIS RULE

In addition, Moreover, Furthermore, Besides | In fact, Indeed, Actually | a second point in the same direction | a sentence that strengthens or corrects the first

In addition

Addition · "one more thing"

✓ The garden supplies vegetables. **In addition,** it hosts classes.

Adds another point in the same direction. Neutral and safe.

Moreover / Furthermore

Addition · "and what is more"

✓ The design is cheap. **Moreover,** it is easy to repair.

Adds a point, often a stronger one, to build an argument.

Besides

Addition · "on top of that"

✓ The early train is too early. **Besides,** the later one is cheaper.

Adds an extra reason, often a decisive one. (As a preposition it also means "except for".)

Also

Addition · "too"

✓ She plays the cello. **Also,** she composes.

Usually inside a sentence. At the start of a sentence it acts like In addition.

In fact

Emphasis · "even more than that"

✓ The bakery was popular. **In fact,** every loaf sold by noon.

The second sentence makes the first stronger or more exact. Can also introduce a real situation that contradicts what was expected.

Indeed

Emphasis · "yes, and strongly so"

✓ The results were encouraging. **Indeed,** every group improved.

Confirms and strengthens what was just said.

Actually

Correction · "the truth is"

✓ Many think bats are blind. **Actually,** most see well.

The real situation is different from, or more surprising than, what people expect.

In fact, Indeed or Actually?

IN FACT / INDEED

idea 1 → stronger idea 1

Same direction, more force. The second sentence proves or intensifies the first.

ACTUALLY

common belief → real situation

The second sentence corrects an assumption in the first. Look for "many think", "people assume", "it seems".

IN ADDITION IS NOT A RESULT WORD

If the second sentence is caused by the first, it is not "in addition". Check with the "because of that" test from Chapter 3. Addition words only **stack** ideas; they do not link them as cause and effect.

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **The community garden gives residents fresh vegetables at low cost. _____ it serves as a meeting place where neighbors get to know one another.**

A) However,
B) As a result,
C) In addition,
D) Previously,

1. Sentence 1: a benefit. Sentence 2: another benefit.
2. Relationship: one more point in the same direction → In addition.
3. A is opposite, B is a result (meeting place is not caused by cheap vegetables), D is about time.

ANSWER **C) In addition,**

Two benefits in a row = addition.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **The bakery's new bread was popular right away. _____ by noon every loaf had sold out.**

A) Instead,
B) In fact,
C) Similarly,
D) Nevertheless,

1. "Sold out by noon" is a stronger version of "popular right away".
2. Relationship: emphasis → In fact.
3. A replaces, C compares two things, D contrasts.

ANSWER **B) In fact,**

When sentence 2 is the same idea at full strength, think In fact / Indeed.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **Most people think the Great Wall of China can be seen from space. _____ astronauts report that it is almost impossible to pick out with the naked eye.**

A) Consequently,
B) Actually,
C) Similarly,
D) Next,

1. Sentence 1 states a common belief. Sentence 2 says the real situation is different.
2. Relationship: correction → Actually.
3. A needs a result, C a similar example, D an order in time.

ANSWER **B) Actually,**

Common belief + the real situation = Actually.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **I do not want to take the early train. It leaves before sunrise. _____ the later one is cheaper.**

A) Nevertheless,
B) For example,
C) Conversely,
D) Besides,

1. The writer is giving reasons for not taking the early train. The last sentence is one more reason.
2. Relationship: an extra reason → Besides.

ANSWER **D) Besides,**

Besides = "and also, on top of that" at the end of a list of reasons.

5 Examples & Specifics

For example · To illustrate · Specifically · In particular · In other words

TRANSITIONS

28 questions in the bank

The second idea gives a case, an exact detail, or the same idea in simpler words.

IF YOU SEE THESE IN A QUESTION, THINK OF THIS RULE

For example, For instance, To illustrate | Specifically, In particular, Namely | In other words, That is, Essentially

a general statement followed by a concrete one

For example / For instance

Example · "one case of this"

- ✓ Many animals live in cities. **For example,** foxes hunt there.

Gives one case out of many. The first sentence is the general claim.

To illustrate

Example · "to help you picture it"

- ✓ Small habits add up. **To illustrate,** two dollars a day is over $700 a year.

Starts a short scenario or number that shows how the idea works. Often longer than a one-line example.

Specifically

Detail · "to be exact"

- ✓ The rule affects registration. **Specifically,** new students must see an adviser.

Narrows a general statement to its exact detail (a name, number or part). Not "one of many".

In particular

Detail · "above all"

- ✓ She loves poetry. **In particular,** she admires haiku.

Singles out the most important or relevant item.

Namely / That is

Detail · "exactly this"

- ✓ One thing remains: **namely,** the budget.

Names exactly what was meant, usually a short item or phrase. That is often follows a dash or sits inside a sentence.

In other words

Restatement · "put simply"

- ✓ Profits were flat. **In other words,** we earned about the same.

Says the same thing again in simpler or clearer words. No new information.

Essentially / Effectively

Restatement · "in basic terms"

- ✓ The company repaid every loan. **Essentially,** it is debt-free.

Boils the previous idea down to what it really amounts to. Like In other words, with the feeling of "this is the bottom line".

Example, detail or restatement?

FOR EXAMPLE

one of many

Test: can you say "one example is"? Then use For example / For instance.

SPECIFICALLY

the exact version

Test: can you say "to be exact"? Then use Specifically / In particular.

IN OTHER WORDS

same idea, simpler

Test: does sentence 2 add nothing new? Then use In other words.

SAME DIRECTION, DIFFERENT JOB

All words in this chapter move in the **same direction** as sentence 1, so you cannot separate them by contrast or result. Separate them by **what sentence 2 does**: gives an example, gives the exact detail, or only rewords.

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE SAT-style question

QUESTION **The new policy will change how students register for classes. _____ all first-year students must now meet with an adviser before they can enroll.**

A) By contrast,
B) Meanwhile,
C) Even so,
D) Specifically,

1. Sentence 1: a general statement. Sentence 2: the exact rule.
2. Relationship: exact detail of the same thing → Specifically.
3. A, B and C would change the direction or the time.

ANSWER **D) Specifically,**

General → exact detail = Specifically.

WORKED EXAMPLE SAT-style question

QUESTION **The company's profits were flat this year. _____ it earned about the same amount as it did last year.**

A) Meanwhile,
B) In other words,
C) Nevertheless,
D) Previously,

1. Sentence 2 says the same thing as sentence 1, only in plainer words.
2. Relationship: restatement → In other words.

ANSWER **B) In other words,**

No new information in sentence 2 = In other words.

WORKED EXAMPLE SAT-style question

QUESTION **Small habits add up over time. _____ saving just two dollars a day builds to more than seven hundred dollars in a year.**

A) However,
B) To illustrate,
C) Consequently,
D) Meanwhile,

1. Sentence 1: a general idea. Sentence 2: a number that shows how it works.
2. Relationship: example → To illustrate.
3. 2 × 365 = 730, so the example is accurate.

ANSWER **B) To illustrate,**

To illustrate usually introduces a worked-out scenario or numbers.

QUICK CONTRAST

For example = one of several cases.
Specifically = the exact version of the same statement.
In other words = the same statement, reworded.

6 Sequence, Time & Single Words

Then · Subsequently · Meanwhile · Ultimately · Increasingly · Fittingly

TRANSITIONS

24 questions in the bank

The second idea comes next, earlier, or at the same time, or it is a final outcome or a growing trend.

IF YOU SEE THESE IN A QUESTION, THINK OF THIS RULE

Then, Subsequently, Afterward, Finally | Meanwhile, Previously, Eventually | Ultimately, Increasingly, Fittingly

dates, years, “first / later” in the text | a trend that grows over time

Then

Sequence · “after that”

✓ Whisk the eggs. **Then,** fold in the flour.

The next step. Also used for logic: if A, then B (“in that case”).

Subsequently

Sequence · “at a later time”

✓ It opened in 2004. **Subsequently,** it added a second hall.

Formal. Later in time, **not** because of the first event.

Afterward

Sequence · “after that event”

✓ The storm passed. **Afterward,** crews cleared the roads.

Same meaning as Subsequently, less formal.

Meanwhile

Time · “at the same time”

✓ Engineers tested cables. **Meanwhile,** designers drew the roads.

Another thing is happening during the first one. It can also mark a mild contrast between two things going on side by side.

Previously

Time · “earlier”

✓ **Previously,** the museum had only one entrance.

Looks back to something before the point in the text.

Finally

Sequence · “last in the list”

✓ First, mix. Next, bake. **Finally,** cool.

The last step or item, often after First, Next, Then.

Ultimately

Sequence · “in the end”

✓ Two drafts failed. **Ultimately,** the third one worked.

The final outcome, or the final main point, after everything before it.

Eventually

Sequence · “after a long time”

✓ The seed sat dormant for years. **Eventually,** it sprouted.

The result arrives late, after waiting or struggling.

Increasingly

Trend · “more and more”

✓ Cash was once standard. **Increasingly,** people pay by phone.

A situation that grows as time passes. Often follows a sentence about the past.

Fittingly

Match · “in a way that suits it”

✓ The theater honors a local actor. **Fittingly,** the first play was his.

The detail that follows matches or suits what was said, like a neat coincidence.

SEQUENCE IS NOT CAUSE

later ≠ because

Subsequently / Afterward / Then only say “later”. If it happens because of the first event, use a result word (Chapter 3).

LOOK FOR TIME CLUES

dates · “first” · “later”

Years, months, “by 1990”, “at first”, “later that year” in the sentences mean a sequence word is likely.

ULTIMATELY, FITTINGLY, INCREASINGLY: HOW TO USE THEM

Ultimately asks: is this the end point of the story or the argument? **Increasingly** asks: is this a growing trend? **Fittingly** asks: does this detail fit what was just said? If the answer is yes, it is the likely choice; if you cannot say yes in one short sentence, look for a more basic relationship first.

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **In 2004, the museum opened its first exhibition hall. _____ in 2011, it added a second hall dedicated to modern art.**

A) However,
B) Therefore,
C) Subsequently,
D) For example,

1. The sentences give two dates in order: 2004, then 2011.
2. Relationship: the next event in time, not because of the first → Subsequently.
3. A contrasts, B needs a result, D needs an example.

ANSWER **C) Subsequently,**

Two dates in order = sequence.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **The engineers spent the winter testing the bridge's steel cables. _____ the design team was finishing the plans for the approach roads.**

A) Consequently,
B) Instead,
C) In fact,
D) Meanwhile,

1. Two different groups are working in the same period.
2. Relationship: at the same time → Meanwhile.
3. A needs a result, B a replacement, C a strengthening.

ANSWER **D) Meanwhile,**

Two things going on in the same period = Meanwhile.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **The first prototype overheated. The second one was too heavy. _____ the third version, lighter and cooler, became the model the company sold.**

A) Ultimately,
B) Specifically,
C) Likewise,
D) Granted,

1. Three attempts in order, the last one successful.
2. Relationship: the final outcome after the earlier tries → Ultimately.
3. B gives detail, C compares, D concedes.

ANSWER **A) Ultimately,**

A list of attempts that ends with the result that stuck = Ultimately.

ORDER WORDS IN ONE LINE

First → Next / Then → Subsequently / Afterward → Finally / Ultimately

Earlier: **Previously** · Same time: **Meanwhile** · Long wait: **Eventually**

7 Comparison & Summary

Similarly · Likewise · In comparison · Overall

TRANSITIONS

16 questions in the bank

The second thing works the same way, is measured against the first, or sums up the whole passage.

IF YOU SEE THESE IN A QUESTION, THINK OF THIS RULE

Similarly, Likewise, In the same way | In comparison, By comparison | Overall, In short, In conclusion | two similar things in a row | the last sentence of a passage

Similarly / Likewise

Comparison · "in the same way"

✓ Bees dance to share food spots. **Similarly,** ants lay trails.

A second thing behaves the same way as the first. Same direction, parallel idea.

In the same way

Comparison · "just like that"

✓ A fire needs air. **In the same way,** a debate needs open minds.

A longer version of Similarly. Often introduces a comparison that explains something.

In comparison / By comparison

Comparison · measured against

✓ The old stadium held 12,000 fans. **In comparison,** the new arena seats 50,000.

Puts two things next to each other to show how they measure up, often how one is much bigger or smaller.

Overall / In short

Summary · "all in all"

✓ **Overall,** the results improved every skill we tracked.

Sums up everything before it. Usually the last sentence of the passage.

In conclusion / In sum

Summary · "to wrap up"

✓ **In sum,** the plan is faster and cheaper.

Formal summary. Same job as Overall.

SIMILARLY IS NOT HOWEVER

similar ≠ opposite

If sentence 2 describes a different outcome, Similarly is wrong. If it describes a parallel one, However is wrong.

SUMMARY COMES LAST

Overall at the end

A summary word needs several earlier points to sum up. If the blank is at the start of the passage, it is not a summary.

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **Sea turtles return to the beaches where they hatched to lay their own eggs. _____ salmon travel hundreds of miles back to the streams of their birth to spawn.**

A) However,
B) As a result,
C) Similarly,
D) Previously,

1. Two animals, two journeys back to the place of birth.
2. Relationship: a parallel case → Similarly.
3. A is opposite, B a result, D a time word.

ANSWER **C) Similarly,**

Two parallel behaviors = Similarly / Likewise.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **The old stadium held about 12,000 fans. _____ the new arena can seat more than 50,000.**

A) Likewise,
B) Therefore,
C) In comparison,
D) Initially,

1. The sentences measure two venues against each other (12,000 vs 50,000).
2. Relationship: comparison of size → In comparison.
3. A says the two are alike, B needs a result, D is a time word.

ANSWER **C) In comparison,**

Numbers or sizes set against each other = In comparison / By comparison.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **The first test measured speed. The second measured accuracy. The third measured endurance. _____ the results showed that the new training method improved every skill the team tracked.**

A) Conversely,
B) For example,
C) Previously,
D) Overall,

1. Three tests are described. The last sentence sums up all of them.
2. Relationship: summary → Overall.

ANSWER **D) Overall,**

A last sentence that covers everything before it = Overall / In short.

COMPARISON WORDS

Same way → Similarly, Likewise
Measured against → In comparison, By comparison
Wrap up → Overall, In short, In sum

8 Punctuation Around Connectors

Glue · bricks · interrupters

CONNECTORS · GRAMMAR · CORE RULE · 30 questions in the bank

The relationship tells you the word; the sentence structure tells you the punctuation. A short chapter that connects both.

IF YOU SEE THESE IN A QUESTION, THINK OF THIS RULE

- a transition in the middle of a sentence
- however / therefore after a comma or semicolon
- but / so / yet in the underlined part
- choices that differ only in , ; and commas around the connector
- two connectors in a row

Three families of connectors, three punctuation patterns

FAMILY	EXAMPLES	HOW IT JOINS	PATTERN
FANBOYS	for · and · nor · but · or · yet · so	Glue: joins two full sentences with a comma	IC , but IC
Subordinating conjunction	although · because · while · if · when · since · whereas	Makes one side dependent	Although DC , IC · IC because DC
Transition word	however · therefore · moreover · for example · in fact	Brick: shows the link; cannot join alone	IC ; however , IC · IC. However , IC

Where the transition sits

AT THE START OF A SENTENCE

Transition , IC

A capital letter, then a comma after the transition.

✓ The plan was cheap. **However,** it was slow.

BETWEEN TWO FULL SENTENCES

IC ; transition , IC

Semicolon before, comma after. A comma before it would make a comma splice.

✓ The plan was cheap; **however,** it was slow.

× The plan was cheap, however it was slow.

IN THE MIDDLE OF ONE SENTENCE

subject , transition , verb

A transition that interrupts a sentence sits between two commas. Cross it out: the sentence must still work.

- ✓ The plan, **however,** was slow.
- × The plan, however was slow.

AT THE END OF A SENTENCE

IC , transition .

A transition can close a sentence after one comma. It still connects this sentence to the sentence before it, not to a sentence after it.

- ✓ The first draft was messy. The final one was clean, **however**.

FANBOYS: COMMA BEFORE ONLY

IC , so IC

The comma goes before the FANBOYS word, not after.

- ✓ The road was icy, **so** we drove slowly.
- × The road was icy, so, we drove slowly.

NEVER STACK TWO CONNECTORS FOR ONE RELATIONSHIP

One connection needs one word. **× But however** · **× Although … but** · **× Because … so** · **× Therefore, so**. If you see two connectors for the same idea in a choice, cross that choice out (see Chapter 9).

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE SAT-style question

QUESTION **The report was short _____ it covered every key point.**

A) , however, it
B) ; however it
C) however, it
D) ; however, it

1. Two full sentences with a however-word between them.
2. A is a comma splice. B is missing the comma after however. C has no punctuation before it.
3. D: semicolon before, comma after.

ANSWER **D) ; however, it**

However-word between two sentences = ; however,

WORKED EXAMPLE SAT-style question

QUESTION **The new schedule _____ pleased most of the staff.**

A) , however,
B) ; however,
C) , however
D) however,

1. However interrupts one sentence, so it needs a pair of commas.
2. B would need a full sentence before the semicolon. C has only one comma. D has none before it.
3. Test: cross out “however” and the sentence still works.

ANSWER **A) , however,**

Interrupter = pair of commas.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION The road was icy _____ we drove slowly.

A) ; so
B) , therefore
C) , thus,
D) , so

1. Two full sentences. FANBOYS (so) works with a comma before it.
2. A: no and / but / so after a semicolon. B and C: therefore and thus are not FANBOYS, so a comma alone makes a comma splice.

ANSWER D) , so

Comma + FANBOYS is legal. Comma + however-word is not.

RULE OF THUMB

Glue (FANBOYS) → comma before.
Brick (however, therefore) → period or semicolon before, comma after.
Interrupter → commas on both sides.
More detail: *SAT Punctuation & Grammar Card*, Chapter 2.

9 Conjunctions Inside a Sentence

FANBOYS · although · because · while · despite vs although

CONNECTORS · GRAMMAR | CORE RULE | 30 questions in the bank

Pick the right connecting word by its meaning and by what follows it. Use only one connector for one relationship.

IF YOU SEE THESE IN A QUESTION, THINK OF THIS RULE

- although / though / while / whereas
- because / since / as
- despite / in spite of / because of / due to
- two connectors in one sentence (although ... but)
- a clause vs a noun after the connector

FANBOYS: what each one says

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
for	because (formal): the reason comes after it	She rested, for the day had been long.
and	adds	He studied, and she practiced.
nor	and not (with a negative idea)	He did not call, nor did he write.
but	contrast	It was cold, but we went out.
or	choice	We can walk, or we can drive.
yet	contrast: "but still"	It was cheap, yet it worked well.
so	result	It rained, so we stayed in.

Subordinating conjunctions by meaning

CONTRAST

although · though · even though · whereas · while

The clause says the opposite of the main clause. **One connector is enough.**

✓ **Although** the route was longer, it was more scenic.
× Although the route was longer, **but** it was more scenic.

REASON

because · since · as

Gives the cause. No "so" in the main clause.

✓ **Because** the road flooded, drivers took another route.
× Because the road flooded, **so** drivers took another route.

TIME

when · after · before · until · once · while

Tells when. While can also be contrast. Read the meaning.

✓ Wait **until** the water boils.

CONDITION

if · unless · as long as · provided that

Tells under what condition. Details in the Punctuation Card, Chapter 10.

✓ **Unless** it rains, we will play.

THE WHILE RULE

In a contrast sentence, **while** already does the job of "but". **While the first design was cheap, the second was durable** is complete. Adding but or however is a double connector. A comma alone is the only punctuation you need.

Connector + clause, or preposition + noun?

MEANING	CLAUSE (subject + verb)	NOUN or -ing (no verb)
contrast	although · even though · though	despite · in spite of
reason	because · since	because of · due to
time	while · when	during

CHECK WHAT FOLLOWS

subject + verb → conjunction · noun → preposition

Look right after the blank. A full clause needs a conjunction. A noun alone needs a preposition.

✓ **Although** it rained, we played.

✓ **Despite** the rain, we played.

× Despite it rained, we played.

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **Although the route was longer ____ it was far more scenic.**

A) , but it
B) ; it
C) , it
D) ; but it

1. "Although the route was longer" is a dependent clause. A dependent clause + main clause needs just a comma.
2. Although already shows the contrast, so but is a double connector (A, D). A semicolon needs a full sentence before it (B, D).

ANSWER **C) , it**

Although ... but = never.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION **Commuters took a longer route ____ the bridge was closed for repairs.**

A) despite
B) because
C) because of
D) although

1. After the blank: "the bridge was closed", a full clause with a subject and verb. So it needs a conjunction (not a preposition).
2. Meaning: the closure is the reason → because. A and C are prepositions, D has the wrong meaning.

ANSWER **B) because**

Clause after the blank → conjunction. Noun after the blank → preposition.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION _____ the heavy rain, the match went ahead as planned.

A) Despite
B) Although
C) Because
D) Whereas

1. After the blank: "the heavy rain", a noun phrase with no verb. A noun needs a preposition.
2. B, C and D are conjunctions and need a subject + verb after them. A: despite + noun.

ANSWER A) Despite

Despite and in spite of take a noun, never a clause.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION While the first design was cheap, _____ the second was durable.

A) the second
B) but the second
C) ; the second
D) however, the second

1. "While" already shows the contrast, so no second contrast word is needed.
2. B and D double the connector. C puts a semicolon after a dependent clause. A: a comma alone.

ANSWER A) the second

While ..., [main clause]. No but, no however.

10 Relative Connectors

who · whom · whose · which · where · when · whereby

CONNECTORS · GRAMMAR | CORE RULE | 28 questions in the bank

These words attach a description to a noun. The right one depends on what the description is missing.

IF YOU SEE THESE IN A QUESTION, THINK OF THIS RULE

- who / whom / whose / which in the choices
- in which · by which · with whom · to whom
- where / when after a noun
- whereby
- noun + that + clause (a finding that...)

THE MISSING-PIECE TEST

Look at the words **after** the connector. **Subject missing?** → who / which / that. **Object missing?** → whom / which / that. **Nothing missing** (the clause is already complete)? → you need **preposition + which / whom**, or **where / when / whereby**, or **whose + noun**.

WHO

who + verb

Replaces a person who does the action. It comes right before a verb. **Never "whom + verb".**

- ✓ The nurse **who** treated him is on duty.
- × The nurse whom treated him is on duty.

WHOM

whom + subject · preposition + whom

Replaces a person who receives the action. After a preposition it is always whom. Test: he → who, him → whom.

- ✓ The teacher **whom** she admired retired.
- ✓ the colleague with **whom** I work

WHOSE

whose + noun

Shows belonging, for people and for things. Not "who's".

- ✓ a city **whose** population doubled
- × a city who's population doubled

WHICH / THAT

which + verb or clause

For things. **that** = essential, no comma. **, which** = extra, comma. Which may follow a preposition (in which).

- ✓ The car **that** I bought is red.
- ✓ The car, **which** I bought in May, is red.

When the clause is complete: preposition + which, or where / when / whereby

PREPOSITION + WHICH / WHOM

in which · during which · to which · by which

The clause after it is complete, so which needs a preposition to attach it. **Which alone, after a complete clause, is wrong.** Think: "where" or "when" in disguise.

- ✓ a room **in which** visitors can touch the artifacts
- × a room which visitors can touch the artifacts

WHERE / WHEN

place noun + where · time noun + when

where for places, when for times. Complete clause after it.

- ✓ the town **where** I grew up
- ✓ the summer **when** the dam was built

WHEREBY

= by which

Describes a method, system, rule or process through which something happens. Never preceded by a preposition.

- ✓ a system **whereby** residents trade tools for free
- × a system by whereby residents trade tools

NOUN + THAT + CLAUSE

the finding that … · the idea that …

That + clause after a noun is a dependent clause. It cannot be a whole sentence by itself.

- ✓ Scientists announced a finding **that** the ice is melting.
- × A finding that the ice is melting faster than expected.

DOES WHICH ALWAYS NEED A PREPOSITION?

No. **Which** works alone when it is the subject or object of its own clause: "the book **which** I read" (object missing), "the report **which** was late" (subject missing). It needs a preposition only when the clause after it is already complete.

Worked examples

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION The scientist _____ the committee honored gave a short speech.

A) who
B) whose
C) whom
D) which

1. After the blank: "the committee honored". It has a subject (committee) and a verb (honored); the object is missing.
2. The missing object is a person → whom. Test: "the committee honored him".

ANSWER C) whom

Subject + verb after it → whom.

WORKED EXAMPLE — SAT-style question

QUESTION The volunteers _____ planted the trees were thanked at the ceremony.

A) who
B) whom
C) which
D) whose

1. After the blank comes a verb (planted). The subject is missing, and the volunteers are people → who.
2. Test: "they planted" (subject form), not "them planted".

ANSWER A) who

Verb right after the blank → who (not whom).

WORKED EXAMPLE SAT-style question

QUESTION **The museum has a room _____ visitors can touch the artifacts.**

A) which
B) who
C) that
D) in which

1. After the blank: "visitors can touch the artifacts". Subject, verb and object are all there; nothing is missing.
2. A complete clause needs a preposition + which (or where). D: "in which".

ANSWER **D) in which**

Complete clause after the blank + no preposition = wrong.

WORKED EXAMPLE SAT-style question

QUESTION **The town created a program _____ residents can trade unused tools for free.**

A) which
B) whereby
C) whom
D) that

1. After the blank: a complete clause. "program" is a system or method.
2. A system through which something happens → whereby ("by which"). The others cannot attach to a complete clause without a preposition.

ANSWER **B) whereby**

Method, system or process + complete clause = whereby.

WORKED EXAMPLE SAT-style question

QUESTION **The summer _____ the dam was built changed the valley forever.**

A) when
B) who
C) whose
D) which

1. "summer" is a time word and the clause after the blank is complete.
2. A time noun + a complete clause → when (or "during which").

ANSWER **A) when**

Time noun + complete clause → when.

ONE-MINUTE SUMMARY

who + verb · **whom** + subject / after a preposition · **whose** + noun
which alone: only if something is missing
in which / where / when / whereby: clause already complete

11 Word Finder & Recognition Map

What you see → what you do

Look the word up by its job, or by the clue in the question.

Two tables to read before the test: first the words sorted by what they **do**, then a map from what you **see** to what you **do**.

Transition word finder

RELATIONSHIP	WORDS	ASK YOURSELF
Contrast	however · nevertheless · nonetheless · still · even so · that said · regardless · yet · instead · rather · on the contrary · on the other hand · conversely · in contrast · by contrast	Does the second idea go against the first?
Concession	admittedly · granted · of course	Does the writer admit a point, then argue the other side?
Dismissal	in any case	Does it set a doubt aside and go back to the main point?
Result	therefore · thus · hence · consequently · accordingly · as a result · as such · in so doing	Does the second idea happen because of the first?
Option / condition	alternatively · otherwise	Does it offer another choice, or say what happens if not?
Purpose	to this end	Does it say what was done to reach the goal just named?
Reason	after all	Does the second sentence explain WHY the first is true?
Addition	in addition · also · besides · furthermore · moreover	Is it one more point in the same direction?
Emphasis / correction	in fact · indeed · actually	Does it strengthen the first idea, or correct a belief?
Example / detail	for example · for instance · to illustrate · specifically · in particular · namely	Does it give a case or the exact detail?
Restatement	in other words · that is · essentially · effectively	Is it the same idea in simpler words?
Sequence / time	then · subsequently · afterward · finally · ultimately · eventually · meanwhile · previously	Does it come next, earlier, or at the same time?
Comparison	similarly · likewise · in the same way · in comparison · by comparison	Does the second thing work the same way, or measure up against the first?
Summary	overall · in short · in sum · in conclusion	Does it sum up the whole passage?
Single-word signals	increasingly · fittingly	Is it a growing trend? Does the detail fit what was said?

Connector recognition map

WHAT YOU SEE IN THE QUESTION		WHAT YOU DO
blank at the start of a sentence; choices are one-word connectors + comma	→	transition question: name the relationship first (Chapter 1)
second idea goes against the first	→	however · nevertheless · still · even so · that said
writer admits a point, then argues the other side	→	admittedly · granted · of course (the concession); still · that said (the pushback)
same pattern, opposite result / two things side by side	→	conversely · in contrast · by contrast
second idea happens because of the first	→	therefore · thus · hence · consequently · as a result · accordingly
"by doing that": the result of an action just named	→	in so doing (the subject after it is the doer)
second sentence explains WHY the first is true	→	after all (not therefore)
second sentence denies the first / replaces a wrong idea	→	on the contrary · rather · instead
a second option, or what happens if the first is not done	→	alternatively / otherwise
a doubt set aside, back to the main point	→	in any case
an action taken toward a goal just named	→	to this end
one more point in the same direction	→	in addition · moreover · furthermore · besides
second sentence is stronger / corrects a belief	→	in fact · indeed / actually
one case of a general statement	→	for example · for instance · to illustrate
the exact detail of the same statement	→	specifically · in particular
the same idea, reworded	→	in other words · that is · essentially
dates or steps in order / same time / earlier	→	then · subsequently · afterward / meanwhile / previously
final outcome, or a trend that grows	→	ultimately · eventually / increasingly
two parallel cases / sizes measured against each other	→	similarly · likewise / in comparison
last sentence that sums up everything	→	overall · in short · in sum
however / therefore between two full sentences	→	; however, (never a comma alone)
a transition at the end of a sentence	→	IC , transition . (it links to the sentence before)
although ... but / because ... so / while ... but	→	one connector only: cross out the extra word
despite / because of + noun vs although / because + clause	→	noun → preposition · subject + verb → conjunction
who / whom / whose	→	who + verb · whom + subject or after a preposition · whose + noun
which with no preposition before a complete clause	→	wrong: in which / where / when / whereby
"a method / system / process" + complete clause	→	whereby (= by which)
noun + that + clause (a finding that...)	→	a dependent clause: cannot stand alone as a sentence

THE 4-STEP ROUTINE

1. Cover the choices. **2.** Name the relationship between the sentence before and after the blank. **3.** Keep only the word group that matches; if the choices are grammar words (who / whom / which / although / despite), look at what follows the blank. **4.** Read the winner back in place.

TRY IT NOW

26 questions, 9 chapters

Two to six questions from each chapter, easy to medium level. Solve them yourself first, then check the solutions after question 26. Remember the words by **using** them, not by memorizing them.

1 Chapter 2 · Contrast & Concession

Critics praised the film's visuals. _____ many viewers found the story too slow.

A) However,
B) Therefore,
C) Similarly,
D) For instance,

2 Chapter 2 · Contrast & Concession

The new budgeting app is easy to use and well designed. _____ it still has a few bugs. Even so, most users say it saves them time.

A) Therefore,
B) For example,
C) Admittedly,
D) Subsequently,

3 Chapter 2 · Contrast & Concession

Forecasters predicted heavy rain on Saturday. _____ the marathon will take place as scheduled.

A) Regardless,
B) Accordingly,
C) Specifically,
D) Likewise,

4 Chapter 3 · Result & Reason

The factory switched its machines to solar power. _____ its electricity bills fell by half.

A) Consequently,
B) Similarly,
C) Conversely,
D) In comparison,

5 Chapter 3 · Result & Reason

Trains in the region run on electric power rather than diesel. _____ they produce no exhaust along the route.

A) Admittedly,
B) Thus,
C) Nevertheless,
D) In contrast,

6 Chapter 3 · Result & Reason

The company announced that it would double its customer-service staff. _____ it opened two hundred new positions this month.

A) Granted,
B) Previously,
C) Conversely,
D) Accordingly,

7 Chapter 4 · Addition & Emphasis

We should not repaint the office this month. The budget is already stretched. _____ the staff will be away on retreat all week.

A) Nevertheless,
B) For example,
C) Besides,
D) Conversely,

8 Chapter 4 · Addition & Emphasis

Many assume that cats dislike water. _____ some breeds, such as the Turkish Van, are known for enjoying a swim.

A) Then,
B) Likewise,
C) Actually,
D) Accordingly,

9 Chapter 5 · Examples & Specifics

The museum offers several free programs for young visitors. _____ on Saturday mornings, children can join a hands-on fossil workshop.

A) For example,
B) Hence,
C) However,
D) Subsequently,

10 Chapter 5 · Examples & Specifics

Her research looks at how sleep affects memory. _____ she studies whether napping after a lesson helps students remember vocabulary.

A) Meanwhile,
B) Nevertheless,
C) Conversely,
D) Specifically,

11 Chapter 6 · Sequence & Time

Years ago, most customers at the café paid with cash. _____ they pay with their phones.

A) Hence,
B) Likewise,
C) Specifically,
D) Increasingly,

12 Chapter 6 · Sequence & Time

The architect named the new theater after the town's first actor. _____ the opening play was the one he had made famous.

A) However,
B) Fittingly,
C) Previously,
D) Instead,

13 Chapter 6 · Sequence & Time

Whisk the eggs and sugar until pale. _____ fold in the flour, a little at a time.

A) Nevertheless,
B) Similarly,
C) Indeed,
D) Then,

14 Chapter 7 · Comparison & Summary

Honeybees communicate the location of food through a dance. _____ ants lay chemical trails that lead other ants to a meal.

A) However,
B) As a result,
C) Similarly,
D) Afterward,

15 Chapter 7 · Comparison & Summary

Last year the school library lent about 4,000 books. _____ the town library lent more than 20,000.

A) In comparison,
B) Likewise,
C) For example,
D) Consequently,

16 Chapter 8 · Punctuation Around Connectors

The path was narrow _____ the hikers moved single file.

A) ; therefore, the
B) , therefore, the
C) , therefore the
D) ; therefore: the

17 Chapter 8 · Punctuation Around Connectors

She wanted to attend the concert _____ she had to work that night.

A) ; but
B) , but
C) ; but,
D) , however

18 Chapter 9 · Conjunctions

_____ the team trained hard, it lost the first match.

A) Despite
B) Because of
C) Although
D) Due to

19 Chapter 9 · Conjunctions

_____ his injury, the pitcher stayed in the game.

A) Despite
B) Although
C) Because
D) Whereas

20 Chapter 9 · Conjunctions

Because the road was flooded, _____ took the long way around.

A) so the drivers
B) the drivers
C) therefore the drivers
D) ; the drivers

21 Chapter 10 · Relative Connectors

The engineer _____ designed the bridge received an award.

A) whom
B) whose
C) which
D) who

22 Chapter 10 · Relative Connectors

The coach _____ the players trusted most resigned after the season.

A) who
B) whom
C) whose
D) which

23 Chapter 10 · Relative Connectors

The study was based on a survey _____ more than 5,000 teenagers answered questions about their sleep.

A) which
B) in which
C) whom
D) that

24 Chapter 10 · Relative Connectors

The scientists announced a finding _____ the ice shelf is melting faster than expected.

A) whom
B) where
C) whereby
D) that

25 Chapter 10 · Relative Connectors

The village adopted a system _____ households share one large solar array.

A) which
B) whom
C) whereby
D) that

26 Chapter 10 · Relative Connectors

The town, _____ the river floods every spring, has built a new levee.

A) which
B) whom
C) that
D) where

Answers and short solutions

1 · A Praise vs "too slow": the opposite direction → However.

2 · C The blank sentence gives up a point (bugs) before the pushback "Even so". Concession → Admittedly.

3 · A The marathon goes ahead whatever the forecast says: "no matter what" → Regardless. (Accordingly would mean the plan fits the forecast.)

4 · A Switching to solar caused the lower bills: result → Consequently.

5 · B Electric power causes the lack of exhaust: result → Thus.

6 · D Hiring is an action taken in line with the announcement → Accordingly.

7 · C The last sentence is one more reason in the same direction → Besides.

8 · C A common belief, then the real situation: correction → Actually.

9 · A The Saturday workshop is one example of the free programs → For example.

10 · D Sentence 2 gives the exact detail of what the research looks at → Specifically.

11 · D A past habit, then a growing present trend → Increasingly.

12 · B Naming the theater after an actor, then opening with his play: the detail fits what was said → Fittingly.

13 · D Two steps in a recipe, the next in order → Then.

14 · C Two parallel cases (bees, ants) → Similarly.

15 · A Two figures set side by side (4,000 vs 20,000) → In comparison.

16 · A Two full sentences: a semicolon before therefore and a comma after. B and C are comma splices; D has a colon with no explanation.

17 · B Two full sentences: comma + FANBOYS (but). A and C: no but after a semicolon. D: however is not FANBOYS, so a comma alone is a comma splice.

18 · C After the blank is a clause (the team trained hard), so a conjunction is needed. Contrast → Although.

19 · A After the blank is a noun phrase (his injury), so a preposition is needed. Contrast → Despite.

20 · B Because already gives the reason, so so / therefore doubles it, and a semicolon cannot follow a dependent clause.

21 · D A verb (designed) comes right after the blank: who.

22 · B The clause after the blank has a subject and a verb (the players trusted); the object is missing and refers to a person → whom.

23 · B The clause after the blank is complete, so which needs a preposition: in which.

24 · D A finding is not a place (where) or a method (whereby). Noun + that + clause says what the finding is.

25 · C A system through which something happens, followed by a complete clause → whereby (= by which).

26 · D A place noun (town) followed by a complete clause → where.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Start using the words

Finishing this card does not mean you are ready. You will know you are ready when you **name the relationship on a real question**: a list you read gets forgotten, but a method you use in a solved question sticks.

1. **Cover the example on the card and solve it yourself.** Look at the steps only when you get stuck.
2. **Get used to the exam format with official Bluebook tests**; solve them with a timer.
3. **After every mistake, find the relationship in this card** and write down its chapter number. Your list of chapters is your study plan.

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