EXPRESSION OF IDEAS / 01 UNDERSTAND

Logical transitions

An illustrated lesson ▪ Theory, reasoning and worked examples

A transition labels a relationship

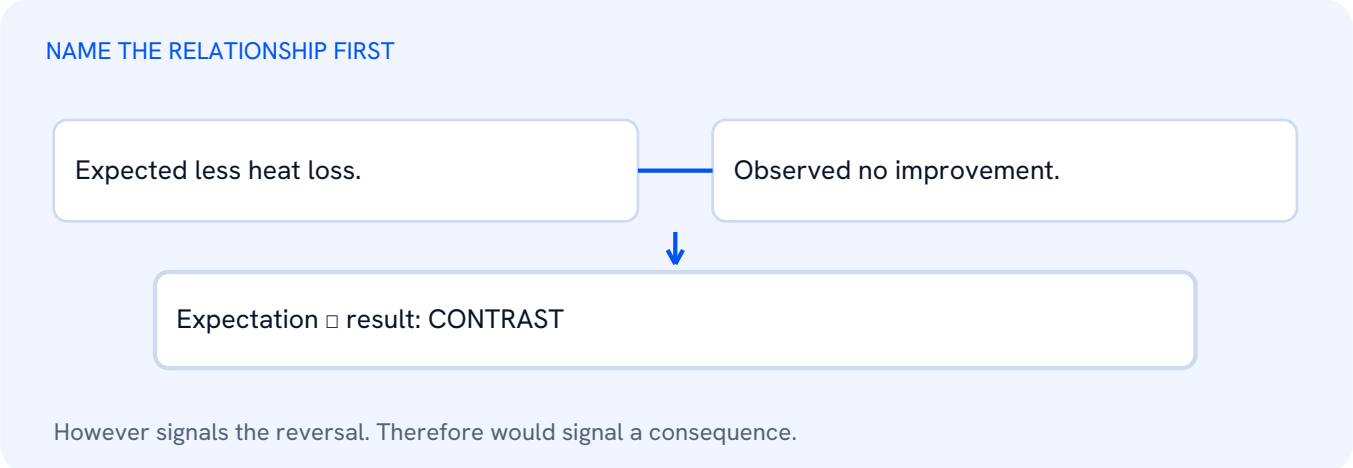
Transitions tell readers how a new idea relates to the previous one. The relationship may be contrast, cause and result, addition, example or clarification. Choosing a transition is therefore a logic task before it is a vocabulary task. Two sentences about the same subject do not necessarily make the same kind of claim.

Read both sides of the blank

The first sentence sets an expectation, claim or situation. The next sentence may support it, reverse it, illustrate it or describe a consequence. Summarize that relationship in plain words before reading the choices. This protects you from selecting a transition that sounds fluent but mislabels the reasoning.

Direction matters

Because introduces a reason, while therefore introduces a result. If heavy rain caused a delay, The rain was heavy; therefore, the event was delayed has a logical direction. Reversing the order without changing the connection can suggest that the delay caused the weather, which is not the intended relationship.



Illustrative teaching diagram. Values and examples are explained in the lesson.

THE ESSENTIAL IDEA

Transitions signal the relationship between neighbouring ideas.

EXPRESSION OF IDEAS / 02 BUILD THE METHOD

From idea to method

Separate contrast from concession

However signals contrast. Nevertheless or even so often highlights a result despite an obstacle. The road was steep; nevertheless, the team reached the summit emphasizes success despite difficulty. In contrast more directly compares opposing characteristics of two subjects.

Separate example from addition

For example introduces a particular case of a broader statement. Moreover adds a further supporting point. If the next sentence names one bird species after a general claim about migration, an example transition may fit. If it presents an independent benefit, an additive transition is more appropriate.

Treat punctuation as a separate check

A logically correct transition can still be placed in an incorrectly punctuated sentence. However and therefore are not coordinating conjunctions that can repair a comma splice by themselves. First choose the relationship; then check whether the surrounding clauses and punctuation form a valid sentence.

WORKED EXAMPLE / EXPECTATION AND REVERSAL

The new insulation was expected to reduce heat loss. _____ measurements showed no improvement.

01 Set up the reasoning

The first sentence creates an expectation of improvement.

02 Apply the relationship

The second reports the opposite outcome, so the relationship is contrast, not cause or example.

03 Interpret and check

However fits. Therefore would wrongly present failure to improve as a consequence of the expectation, and for example would misclassify the second sentence as an illustration.

EXPRESSION OF IDEAS / 03 CONNECT & REMEMBER

See the deeper pattern

A quick decision procedure

If you are unsure, temporarily remove the transition. Ask: does sentence two give a specific instance, add another point, explain a reason, report an effect or contradict an expectation? Choose the category first and then the word. If two options are close, focus on whether the second sentence is a separate claim or a specific example of the first.

ONE MORE WORKED APPLICATION

Leah expected the new method to take less time. ____ it took 9 minutes longer than the old method. Which transition fits: However, Therefore, For example, or Similarly?

1. The result contradicts the expectation.

2. However marks contrast; Therefore would imply the result followed from the expectation.

Answer: However

Mistakes to recognize

- Similar vocabulary in both sentences does not prove addition.
- Do not confuse a consequence with an example.
- Check the relationship of ideas, not just whether the word sounds formal.

A quick understanding check

What should you identify before choosing a transition?

Explanation: The logical relationship between the ideas on either side of the blank.

MORE PRACTICE IN YOUR DASHBOARD

Open prepvora.com/app/ and use the SAT question bank. Work on Expression of Ideas, then look for logical transitions questions. Solve independently before reviewing the explanation. Use this guide for the theory; use the dashboard for a longer practice session.

Open your dashboard → | Explore the resource library →

Original Prepvora explanations and examples. Scope: this topic, not the entire SAT syllabus. 2026-10-01 ▪ theory-v2