

Transitions

Question 1

Though the musical groups Los Palominos and Banda Los Recoditos are often categorized under the catchall "regional Mexican music" label, they each adhere to distinct musical traditions. The former works within the tejano tradition, which originated in mid-twentieth-century Texas and northern Mexico. The latter, _____ follows the banda tradition, with roots in mid-nineteenth-century southern and central Mexico.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A therefore,
- ☐ B to this end,
- ☐ C however,
- ☐ D in other words,

Question 2

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

Question 3

The first documented use of the English word "session" is attributed to poet Geoffrey Chaucer's 1386 work "Canterbury Prologue." However, Chaucer didn't write in Modern English; _____ he wrote in what we now call Middle English, which was commonly used during the period.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A rather,
- ☐ B as a result,
- ☐ C similarly,
- ☐ D finally,

Question 4

Soil polluted with chromium (a heavy metal) is harmful to many plants and animals, but the plant species *Ludwigia prostrata*, or creeping water primrose, not only thrives in such conditions but also helps remediate them. As a metal hyperaccumulator, *Ludwigia prostrata* absorbs a large amount of chromium and stores it safely in its roots and shoots; _____ chromium concentrations in the soil decrease.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A in addition,
- ☐ B nevertheless,
- ☐ C in turn,
- ☐ D specifically.

Question 5

A band might choose a name that is as unique and original as possible. _____ they might name themselves after a recognizable song by a favorite band. This is what the Japanese experimental rock band Boris did when they named themselves after the song "Boris" by the Melvins.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Thus,
- ☐ B Alternatively,
- ☐ C In other words,
- ☐ D For instance,

Question 6

A band might choose a name that is as unique and original as possible. _____ they might name themselves after a recognizable song by a favorite band. This is what the Australian rock band Hunters & Collectors did when they named themselves after the song “Hunters and Collectors” by Can.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Alternatively,
- ☐ B For instance,
- ☐ C In other words,
- ☐ D Thus,

Question 7

Few economists have heard of Harvey Leibenstein. _____ many have encountered his work in the influential *X-Efficiency theory*. As the theory's originator, Leibenstein challenged the assumption that firms always operate at maximum efficiency.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Likewise,
- ☐ B For instance,
- ☐ C However,
- ☐ D Thus,

Question 8

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

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

Question 9

Theater industry veteran Robert Tang admits that his ambitions weren't very lofty when he created the Asian American Theater Revue, a website that documents information about Asian American theaters like Second Generation Productions in New York City, New York: "Everyone had a site, so I had to have one, too." _____ his site has become an essential resource for industry professionals looking to learn more about Asian American plays, playwrights, theater festivals, and more.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Nevertheless,
- ☐ B Therefore,
- ☐ C Furthermore,
- ☐ D Next,

Question 10

The world's first airplane, the 1903 Wright Flyer, was not very aerodynamic, as evidenced by its low lift-to-drag ratio of just 8.3 : 1. The Northrop F-5 jet, like most modern aircraft, is far more aerodynamic. _____ its lift-to-drag ratio is more than twice that of the Wright Flyer.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A Specifically,
- B In conclusion,
- C However,
- D Nevertheless,

Question 11

The city of Jinan, China, expanded its rapid transit system, the Jinan Metro, as recently as 2020. _____ the system will likely need to undergo further expansions as the size and needs of the city's population shift.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Still,
- ☐ B By contrast,
- ☐ C For example,
- ☐ D Instead,

Question 12

Space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock is excited about the potential of the new James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). Unlike its predecessor the Hubble Space Telescope, the JWST is **optimized for infrared wavelength**. When light from distant galaxies is infrared, _____ the JWST can provide **sharp images** that reveal much more information about those galaxies than the Hubble could.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A consequently,
- ☐ B admittedly,
- ☐ C actually,
- ☐ D in addition,

Question 13

The first documented use of the English word "depart" is attributed to poet Geoffrey Chaucer's 1386 work "The Parson's Tale."

However, Chaucer didn't write in Modern English; _____ he wrote it what we now call Middle English, which was commonly used during the period.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A rather,
- ☐ B finally,
- ☐ C as a result,
- ☐ D similarly,

Question 14

In online communities, cyberbullying can trigger what is known as the bystander effect. First, a user will post a harmful comment targeting an individual. _____ other users who witness this may fail to intervene, assuming someone else will. Ultimately, this inaction can perpetuate a toxic online environment.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Similarly,
- ☐ B Subsequently,
- ☐ C By contrast,
- ☐ D For instance,

Question 15

Ecologists like Michelle Evans-White use trophic pyramids to illustrate the food chain within a given ecosystem. At a typical pyramid's base are primary producers, like algae, followed by herbivores at the second trophic level, then omnivores and carnivores at the third. _____ at the fourth, highest trophic level are apex predators, like sharks, that feed on the animals below.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A In fact,
- ☐ B For example,
- ☐ C Besides,
- ☐ D Lastly,

Question 16

In 1940, scientists first isolated a sample of the steroid hormone androstenone, which they knew existed in animals—and, they assumed, only in animals. _____ scientists know that androstenone can also be found in chokecherry plants (*Prunus virginiana*), but this discovery didn't occur until decades later.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Today,
- ☐ B For instance,
- ☐ C In other words,
- ☐ D Thus,

Question 17

In the early 1970s, Albert Popa took up graffiti art, spraying his work onto what was at the time an unconventional surface: concrete. _____ Albert's son David has chosen an unusual canvas for his new art project, *Fractured*. In this remarkable work, the artist draws charcoal faces onto fragmented ice floes in Finland, creating the visual effect of a face slowly fracturing.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A However,
- ☐ B Indeed,
- ☐ C Second,
- ☐ D Likewise,

Question 18

Ecologists like Renae Brodie use trophic pyramids to illustrate the food chain within a given ecosystem. At a typical pyramid's base are primary producers, like plants, followed by herbivores at the second trophic level, then omnivores and carnivores at the third _____ at the fourth, highest trophic level are apex predators, like eagles, that feed on the animals below.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Lastly,
- ☐ B In fact,
- ☐ C For example,
- ☐ D Besides,

Question 19

According to traditional classifications, each of William Shakespeare's plays belongs to one of three distinct genres: comedy, history, or tragedy. The play *Much Ado About Nothing* (1598-99), _____ is classified as a comedy, whereas *Richard II* (1595) is classified as a history.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A in addition,
- ☐ B similarly,
- ☐ C for instance,
- ☐ D however,

Question 20

The "looking-glass self" is a social psychological concept stating that a person's self grows out of society's interpersonal interactions and the perceptions of others. The term was coined by sociologist Charles Horton Cooley in 1902. He noted that we imagine how we must appear to others in a social situation.

_____ we imagine and react to what we feel their judgment of that appearance is.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A On the contrary,
- ☐ B For example,
- ☐ C Consequently,
- ☐ D Ultimately,

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: C

The first sentence of the passage emphasized that these 2 groups follow 2 distinct traditions. Therefore, we need to find a transition that shows contrast. (C) is the only suitable option for this.

Question 2

Correct Answer: D

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'Then, the site is carefully dug, and any artifacts found are recorded and mapped onto the site grid.'
- 'the artifacts are removed, cataloged, and analyzed in a laboratory.'

These clauses describe a sequence of steps in an archaeological dig. The first clause describes digging and mapping, and the second describes the subsequent laboratory work. The transition should logically indicate the culmination or final step in this sequence. "Finally" (D) is a sequential transition that signals the last step in a series of events or actions, which perfectly fits the relationship between the two clauses.

Question 3

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'Chaucer didn't write in Modern English'
- 'he wrote in what we now call Middle English'

The first clause makes a negative statement, clarifying what Chaucer did not do. The second clause then provides the correct information, stating what he did instead. This creates a relationship of correction or replacement.

The transition "rather" is used to introduce a statement that corrects, clarifies, or contrasts with the previous one. It functions similarly to "instead." Therefore, (A) is the correct answer as it perfectly signals that writing in Middle English is the alternative to writing in Modern English.

Question 4

Correct Answer: C

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'Ludwigia prostrata absorbs a large amount of chromium and stores it safely in its roots and shoots'
- 'chromium concentrations in the soil decrease.'

The first clause describes the action of the plant, and the second clause describes the result or consequence of that action. The plant's absorption and storage of chromium directly cause the decrease in soil chromium concentrations. Therefore, a causal transition is needed. 'In turn' is the correct causal transition, meaning 'as a result' or 'consequently,' indicating that the decrease in chromium is a direct effect of the plant's action. (C) is the correct answer.

Question 5

Correct Answer: B

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'A band might choose a name that is as unique and original as possible.'
- 'they might name themselves after a recognizable song by a favorite band.'

These two clauses present two different options or possibilities for how a band might choose a name. The first clause describes one approach

(unique and original names), and the second clause describes another, different approach (naming after an existing song). Therefore, an adversative transition indicating an alternative is needed.

'Alternatively,' (B) is the correct choice because it signals that the second statement presents another option or possibility to the first.

Question 6

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'A band might choose a name that is as unique and original as possible.'
- 'they might name themselves after a recognizable song by a favorite band.'

The first clause describes one way a band can choose a name: by being completely original. The second clause presents a different, contrasting way: by using the name of an existing song.

The relationship between these two clauses is one of presenting an alternative or a different possibility. The transition "Alternatively" is used specifically to introduce another option or choice, making it the perfect fit to connect these two distinct ideas. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer.

Question 7

Correct Answer: C

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "Few economists have heard of Harvey Leibenstein."
- "many have encountered his work in the influential *X-Efficiency theory*."

These two clauses present **contrasting ideas**. The first clause states that few economists know about Leibenstein himself, while the second clause reveals that many economists are actually familiar with his work. This creates a contradiction or unexpected contrast between the two statements.

Since we need a transition that signals this contrast, we require an **adversative transition**. Among the choices, *however* is the adversative transition that appropriately introduces this contrast.

The correct answer is **(C)**.

Question 8

Correct Answer: D

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'To guarantee the validity of experimental results, scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measurement.'
- 'metrologists (scientists who study measurement) developed the SI, or International System of Units.'

These clauses present a cause-and-effect relationship. The first clause states the need for precise standards, and the second clause describes the action taken (the development of the SI) to meet that need. Therefore, a causal transition is required.

D. 'For this reason,' is a causal transition that logically connects the idea that scientists need precise standards with the development of the SI. It clearly indicates that the SI was developed as a direct result of this need.

Question 9

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- “‘Everyone had a site, so I had to have one, too.’”
- ‘his site has become an essential resource for industry professionals looking to learn more about Asian American plays, playwrights, theater festivals, and more.’

The first clause reveals Robert Tang’s modest initial reason for creating his

website—simply because others had one. The second clause describes the significant and important resource the site eventually became. There is a contrast between the humble beginnings and the impressive outcome.

An adversative transition is needed to signal this contrast. “Nevertheless” means “in spite of that” and correctly introduces the surprising or contrasting result. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer.

Question 10

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- ‘The Northrop F-5 jet, like most modern aircraft, is far more aerodynamic.’
- ‘its lift-to-drag ratio is more than twice that of the Wright Flyer.’

The first clause makes a general claim that the Northrop F-5 jet is significantly more aerodynamic than the Wright Flyer mentioned earlier. The second clause provides a concrete piece of evidence—a specific numerical comparison of their lift-to-drag ratios—to support and illustrate that claim.

This is an **exemplify** relationship, where the second sentence provides specific details to clarify the general statement made in the first sentence. The transition ‘*Specifically*’ is used to introduce this level of detail. Therefore, the correct answer is **(A)**.

Question 11

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

‘The city of Jinan, China, expanded its rapid transit system, the Jinan Metro, as recently as 2020.’

‘the system will likely need to undergo further expansions as the size and needs of the city’s population shift.’

The first clause states a recent achievement: the expansion of the Jinan Metro. The second clause presents a future necessity: the need for even more expansions. The relationship between these two ideas is adversative; despite the recent expansion, more work is still required. The transition 'Still' correctly captures this sense of contrast, indicating that even with the recent development mentioned in the first clause, the point made in the second clause remains true. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer.

Question 12

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'Unlike its predecessor the Hubble Space Telescope, the JWST is **optimized for infrared wavelength.**'
- 'When light from distant galaxies is infrared, the JWST can provide **sharp images** that reveal much more information...'

The first clause states a characteristic of the JWST: it is optimized for infrared light. The second clause describes a result of this characteristic: because it's optimized for infrared, it can capture sharp images of galaxies whose light is infrared.

This is a cause-and-effect relationship. The transition must show that the second clause is a result of the first. The word *consequently* means "as a result," making it a perfect fit for this causal relationship. Therefore, the correct answer is (A).

Question 13

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- **Clause 1:** 'Chaucer didn't write in Modern English'**Clause 2:** 'he wrote it what we now call Middle English, which was commonly used

during the period.'

The first clause makes a negative statement, clarifying what Chaucer *didn't* do. The second clause then corrects this by stating what he *did* do instead. This relationship indicates a correction or the presentation of a more accurate alternative.

The transition **(A) *rather***, is the best choice because it is used to introduce a statement that corrects or is preferred over the preceding one. The sentence structure 'not X; rather, Y' perfectly fits the logic of correcting a potential misunderstanding about the type of English Chaucer used.

Question 14

Correct Answer: B

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "First, a user will post a harmful comment targeting an individual."
- "other users who witness this may fail to intervene, assuming someone else will."

These two clauses describe events that occur **in sequence**—one action happens, and then another follows. The first clause establishes that a harmful comment is posted *first*, and the second clause describes what happens *next*: other users witness it but fail to intervene.

This sequential relationship requires a **sequential transition** that indicates the order of events. The correct answer is **(B) "Subsequently,"** which means "afterward" or "following that event," clearly signaling that the second action occurs after the first in the progression of the bystander effect.

Question 15

Correct Answer: D

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'At a typical pyramid's base are primary producers, like algae, followed by herbivores at the second trophic level, then omnivores and carnivores at the third.'
- 'at the fourth, highest trophic level are apex predators, like sharks, that feed on the animals below.'

The passage describes the different levels of a trophic pyramid in a specific order: the base, the second level, the third level, and finally, the fourth level. This indicates a sequential relationship between the ideas.

The transition 'Lastly,' is a sequential transition used to introduce the final item in a list or sequence. Since the fourth trophic level is the final and highest level being described in this list, 'Lastly,' is the most logical choice. Therefore, (D) is the correct answer.

Question 16

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'In 1940, scientists first isolated a sample of the steroid hormone androstenone, which they knew existed in animals—and, they assumed, only in animals.'
- 'scientists know that androstenone can also be found in chokecherry plants (*Prunus virginiana*), but this discovery didn't occur until decades later.'

The first clause describes a scientific belief from a specific point in the past (1940), while the second clause describes the current scientific understanding of the same topic. The relationship between the two clauses is a contrast based on a shift in time.

The transition "Today," effectively establishes this temporal contrast, showing the difference between what was believed in 1940 and what is known in the present. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer.

Question 17

Correct Answer: D

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'In the early 1970s, Albert Popa took up graffiti art, spraying his work onto what was at the time an unconventional surface: concrete.'
- 'Albert's son David has chosen an unusual canvas for his new art project, Fractured.'

The first clause states that Albert Popa used an unconventional surface for his art. The second clause describes how his son, David, has also chosen an unusual canvas for his art. The relationship between these two ideas is one of similarity or comparison; both father and son use unconventional surfaces for their artwork.

Therefore, an additive transition that shows similarity is needed. (D)

'Likewise,' which means 'in the same way' or 'similarly,' perfectly captures this relationship of similarity between the actions of the father and the son.

Question 18

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- '...followed by herbivores at the second trophic level, then omnivores and carnivores at the third'
- 'at the fourth, highest trophic level are apex predators, like eagles, that feed on the animals below.'

These clauses describe a sequential order of levels within a trophic pyramid. The passage begins at the base (primary producers), moves to the second level (herbivores), then the third (omnivores/carnivores), and finally reaches the top of the pyramid.

Because the second clause introduces the final stage of this sequence—the 'highest' trophic level—a sequential transition is required to signal the end of

the list. Therefore, the correct answer is **(A)**, as 'Lastly' appropriately indicates that this is the final point in the description of the food chain hierarchy.

Question 19

Correct Answer: C

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

'According to traditional classifications, each of William Shakespeare's plays belongs to one of three distinct genres: comedy, history, or tragedy.'

'The play Much Ado About Nothing (1598-99), _____ is classified as a comedy, whereas Richard II (1595) is classified as a history.'

The first sentence makes a general statement about Shakespeare's plays being categorized into three genres. The second sentence provides specific examples of plays (*Much Ado About Nothing* and *Richard II*) that fit into these categories. Therefore, the relationship between the two clauses is one of exemplification.

The transition 'for instance' is used to introduce an example that illustrates a previous point. This perfectly matches the relationship we identified. The correct answer is (C).

Question 20

Correct Answer: C

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "He noted that we imagine how we must appear to others in a social situation."
- "we imagine and react to what we feel their judgment of that appearance is."

These two clauses present a **cause-and-effect relationship**. The first

clause describes how we imagine our appearance to others in social situations. The second clause then describes what happens *as a result* of this imagination—we react to what we perceive their judgment to be.

This is a clear example of a **causal transition**, where the second action (imagining and reacting to others' judgments) flows naturally from the first action (imagining how we appear to others). The correct answer is **(C) "Consequently,"** which properly signals this cause-and-effect relationship between the two connected ideas.