

Question ID ad1bae24

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: ad1bae24

The French directors Colas Koola and Vivien Mermet-Guyenet (known as Koola and Viv) founded the video game studio BlueTwelve. They also love cats. _____ they created an award-winning cat video game, *Stray* (2021), that lets the player explore a dystopian city from the perspective of a clever orange house cat.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Intermittently,
- B. On the other hand,
- C. In fact,
- D. Nevertheless,

ID: ad1bae24 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "In fact" logically signals that the information in this sentence about the creation of the video game offers additional emphasis in support of the previous claim that video game studio founders Koola and Viv love cats.

Choice A is incorrect because "intermittently" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurs sporadically or in intervals. Instead, the creation of the video game offers additional emphasis in support of the previous claim about Koola and Viv. Choice B is incorrect because "on the other hand" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous claim about Koola and Viv. Instead, the creation of the video game offers additional emphasis in support of that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous claim that Koola and Viv love cats. Instead, the creation of the video game offers additional emphasis in support of that claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6fe16bf4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 6fe16bf4

There are three basic steps you should follow when planning a scientific inquiry. First, thoroughly research the question you wish to answer. _____ come up with a prediction (also called a hypothesis) about the answer to your question. Third, develop an experiment that can test the accuracy of your hypothesis.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Therefore,
- B. Instead,
- C. For example,
- D. Second,

ID: 6fe16bf4 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Second" logically signals that the activity described in this sentence—coming up with a prediction—is the next step in the three-part sequence of steps described in the text.

Choice A is incorrect because "therefore" illogically signals that coming up with a prediction is a result or consequence of the activity described in the previous sentence: researching a question. While a prediction may be influenced by prior research, these activities are distinct steps in planning a scientific inquiry. Coming up with a prediction is the next step in the three-part sequence of steps described in the text. Choice B is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that coming up with a prediction is an alternative to the activity described in the previous sentence: researching a question. Rather, coming up with a prediction is the next step in the three-part sequence of steps described in the text. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that coming up with a prediction is an example of the activity described in the previous sentence: researching a question. Instead, coming up with a prediction is the next step in the three-part sequence of steps described in the text.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 179f5f0c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 179f5f0c

It has long been thought that humans first crossed a land bridge into the Americas approximately 13,000 years ago. _____ based on radiocarbon dating of samples uncovered in Mexico, a research team recently suggested that humans may have arrived more than 30,000 years ago—much earlier than previously thought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Similarly,
- C. However,
- D. In conclusion,

ID: 179f5f0c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “However” logically signals that the theory discussed in this sentence—that humans may have arrived in the Americas over 30,000 years ago—contrasts with the previously discussed theory that humans arrived around 13,000 years ago.

Choice A is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the theory in this sentence is the result of the theory discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, this theory contrasts with the previous one. Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the theory in this sentence is similar to the theory discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, this theory contrasts with the previous one. Choice D is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the theory in this sentence concludes or summarizes the discussion of the previous theory. Instead, this theory contrasts with the previous one.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c0eb2ae2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: c0eb2ae2

A blend of gabardine and wool, the material for Elvis Presley’s Gold Vine jumpsuit was flexible enough to allow the singer to perform his signature dance moves. _____ the added weight of the suit’s swirling vines made of gold rhinestones likely limited Elvis’s mobility to some degree.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For this reason,
- B. Firstly,
- C. However,
- D. In other words,

ID: c0eb2ae2 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "However" logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that the weight of the gold rhinestones likely limited Elvis’s mobility—contrasts with the previous information about the material being flexible enough for Elvis’s dance moves.

Choice A is incorrect because "for this reason" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is caused by the previous information about the material being flexible enough for Elvis’s dance moves. Instead, the claim that the weight of the suit’s rhinestones limited movement contrasts with the previous information about the jumpsuit’s flexibility. Choice B is incorrect because "firstly" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is the first in a series of claims about the jumpsuit being flexible enough for Elvis’s dance moves. Instead, the claim that the weight of the suit’s rhinestones limited movement contrasts with the previous information about the jumpsuit’s flexibility. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about the material being flexible enough for Elvis’s dance moves. Instead, the claim that the weight of the suit’s rhinestones limited movement contrasts with the previous information about the jumpsuit’s flexibility.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 63c61c2e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 63c61c2e

The traditional process of Turkish paper marbling (ebru) generally proceeds like this: First, the artisan fills a shallow tray with a water bath solution. Next, the artisan adds inks or paints to the solution, which can then be manipulated into intricate designs. _____ the artisan slips paper in and out of the liquid, transferring the design onto the paper.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Actually,
- B. Therefore,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Finally,

ID: 63c61c2e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Finally” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the artisan slips paper in and out of the liquid to transfer the design onto paper—is the final step in the process of Turkish paper marbling, which began with what happens “first” (filling a tray with a solution) and continued with what happens “next” (adding inks or paints to the solution).

Choice A is incorrect because “actually” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about slipping paper in and out of liquid to transfer a design onto paper is unexpected in light of the previously described steps. Instead, the sentence describes the final step in the process of Turkish paper marbling. Choice B is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about slipping paper in and out of liquid to transfer a design onto paper is a consequence of the previously described steps. Instead, the sentence describes the final step in the process of Turkish paper marbling. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about slipping paper in and out of liquid to transfer a design onto paper contrasts with the previously described steps. Instead, the sentence describes the final step in the process of Turkish paper marbling.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID cf8a4e69

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: cf8a4e69

Many butterfly species have bold, brightly colored wings. _____ some butterfly species have wings that are almost completely colorless and transparent. Glasswing butterflies, for example, have see-through wings that make them nearly invisible.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Previously,
- C. In other words,
- D. However,

ID: cf8a4e69 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "However" logically signals that the information in this sentence about butterfly species—that some have colorless, transparent wings—contrasts with the previous information about butterfly species with bold, colorful wings.

Choice A is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about butterfly species. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information. Choice B is incorrect because "previously" illogically signals that this sentence describes an event that occurred before another event. Instead, the sentence provides information about butterfly species that contrasts with the information in the first sentence. Choice C is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about butterfly species. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 53112b94

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 53112b94

In June, female loggerhead sea turtles will swim back to the sandy beaches where they were born to lay eggs of their own. First, the turtle will dig her nest in the sand. _____ she will lay up to 100 eggs in the nest. Finally, she will cover it all with sand, before returning to the ocean.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Next,
- D. For example,

ID: 53112b94 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Next” logically signals that the egg laying in this sentence is the next step in the sequence of events described in the other sentences.

Choice A is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the egg laying in this sentence contrasts with the nest digging in the previous sentence. Instead, the egg laying follows the nest digging as the next step in the sequence of events. Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the egg laying in this sentence is similar to the nest digging in the previous sentence. Though the two actions are related, they are not similar. Instead, the egg laying follows the nest digging as the next step in the sequence of events. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the egg laying in this sentence is an example of the nest digging in the previous sentence. Instead, the egg laying follows the nest digging as the next step in the sequence of events.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ef241712

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: ef241712

The tiny transistors that control the flow of electricity in modern devices may one day be made of wood. Researchers in Switzerland have found a way to use heat and chemicals to widen the grooves in dry pieces of balsa wood. _____ these grooves become wide enough that electrical conductors can be passed through them.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Previously,
- C. In contrast,
- D. As a result,

ID: ef241712 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “As a result” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the widened grooves in balsa wood can accommodate electrical conductors—is a direct consequence of the researchers’ method described in the previous sentence (using heat and chemicals to widen the grooves).

Choice A is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that this sentence provides an example of the researchers’ method described in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence indicates a consequence of that method. Choice B is incorrect because “previously” illogically signals that this sentence describes an event that occurred before the researchers’ development of the method described in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence indicates a consequence of that method. Choice C is incorrect because “in contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous sentence’s description of the researchers’ method. Instead, the sentence indicates a consequence of that method.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6467e206

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 6467e206

On March 3, 1991, Switzerland’s government lowered the minimum voting age for its citizens from 20 to 18 years old. _____ many people in Switzerland gained a new opportunity to participate in their country’s political process.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Nevertheless,
- B. As a result,
- C. By contrast,
- D. Similarly,

ID: 6467e206 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "As a result" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that many people in Switzerland gained a new opportunity to participate in their country’s political process—is a result or consequence of the previous information about the Swiss government lowering the voting age.

Choice A is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information that follows is despite the information in the previous sentence about the Swiss government lowering the voting age. Instead, people gained a new opportunity to participate in Switzerland’s political process as a result or consequence of that change. Choice C is incorrect because "by contrast" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence about the Swiss government lowering the voting age. Instead, people gained a new opportunity to participate in Switzerland’s political process as a result or consequence of that change. Choice D is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the information about the Swiss government lowering the voting age in the previous sentence. Instead, people gained a new opportunity to participate in Switzerland’s political process as a result or consequence of that change.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6db07aca

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 6db07aca

When using sumac for dyeing cloth, textile artists first soak it in water to release its color. Then, they add the cloth to the dyebath and simmer it for hours, perhaps even days. _____ they will remove the cloth, at which point it will have turned a vibrant red color.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Nevertheless,
- B. Likewise,
- C. Eventually,
- D. In other words,

ID: 6db07aca Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Eventually" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that textile artists will remove the cloth when it has turned red—is the final step in the chronological sequence of the dyeing process described in the previous sentences.

Choice A is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous information about simmering the cloth in the dyebath. Instead, the removal of the cloth is the final step in the dyeing process. Choice B is incorrect because "likewise" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about simmering the cloth in the dyebath. Instead, the removal of the cloth is the final step in the dyeing process. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about simmering the cloth in the dyebath. Instead, the removal of the cloth is the final step in the dyeing process.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ee23e071

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: ee23e071

The Alaska Native Language Archive (ANLA) is known for its impressive audio collection. _____ the ANLA has more than 5,000 audio recordings of Native Alaskan languages dating as far back as 1943.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. After,
- C. Regardless,
- D. Instead,

ID: ee23e071 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "In fact" logically signals that the information in this sentence about the large number of recordings in ANLA’s collection emphasizes and supports the previous claim that ANLA is known for its impressive audio collection.

Choice B is incorrect because "after" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurs later in a sequence of events than the previous claim about ANLA’s impressive audio collection. Instead, the information about the large number of recordings emphasizes and supports that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "regardless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous claim about ANLA’s impressive audio collection. Instead, the information about the large number of recordings emphasizes and supports that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that the information in this sentence presents an alternative to the previous claim about ANLA’s impressive audio collection. Rather, the information about the large number of recordings emphasizes and supports that claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 83afd32b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 83afd32b

In the 1850s, William Still was instrumental in helping nearly 1,000 people escape from slavery, earning him the moniker “the Father of the Underground Railroad.” _____ despite the fame of his contributions during his lifetime, Still is discussed far less today than other prominent Black abolitionists from his era, such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. However,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Similarly,

ID: 83afd32b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “However” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Still is discussed less frequently today than other famous Black abolitionists—contrasts with the information in the previous sentence, which indicates that Still was once so prominent that he was called “the Father of the Underground Railroad.”

Choice A is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that this sentence provides an example supporting the information about Still’s accomplishments. Instead, the sentence indicates that Still is discussed less frequently today than other famous Black abolitionists. Choice C is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that this sentence provides a specific example supporting the information about Still’s accomplishments. Instead, the sentence indicates that Still is discussed less frequently today than other famous Black abolitionists. Choice D is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that this sentence provides similar information to the information about Still’s accomplishments. Instead, the sentence indicates that Still is discussed less frequently today than other famous Black abolitionists.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3f97aa71

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 3f97aa71

In 1968, US Congressman John Conyers introduced a bill to establish a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The bill didn’t make it to a vote, but Conyers was determined. He teamed up with Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to be elected to Congress, and they resubmitted the bill every session for the next fifteen years. _____ in 1983, the bill passed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. Likewise,
- C. Finally,
- D. Additionally,

ID: 3f97aa71 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Finally” logically signals that the bill passing—following many attempts between 1968 and 1983—is the final, concluding event in the sequence described in the previous sentences.

Choice A is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the bill passing is an alternative to one of the events described in the previous sentences. Instead, it is the final event in the sequence. Choice B is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the bill passing is similar to one of the events described in the previous sentences. Instead, it is the final event in the sequence. Choice D is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the bill passing is merely another event described along with the events of the previous sentences. Instead, it is the final, concluding event in the sequence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 68afdcab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 68afdcab

Tyrian purple was a highly prized dye among the Phoenicians (an ancient civilization located in present-day Lebanon). The Phoenicians were famous for using this natural dye to color their clothes a distinctive purple. _____ the name “Phoenicia” itself, some historians claim, may have originally meant “land of purple.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. Regardless,
- C. Lastly,
- D. On the contrary,

ID: 68afdcab Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “In fact” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—Phoenicia being named after the color purple—emphasizes and supports the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye.

Choice B is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the claim about Phoenicia’s name contrasts with the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye. Instead, the naming emphasizes and supports this claim. Choice C is incorrect because “lastly” illogically signals that the claim about Phoenicia’s name is the final step in a process or sequence. Instead, the naming emphasizes and supports the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye. Choice D is incorrect because “on the contrary” illogically signals that the claim about Phoenicia’s name directly opposes the previous claim that Phoenicians were famous for using purple dye. Instead, the naming emphasizes and supports this claim.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 836f5d35

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 836f5d35

Before it unveiled a massive new gallery in 2009, the Art Institute of Chicago was only able to display about 5% of its art collection. _____ the museum is able to display close to 30% of its collection.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. For example,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Today,

ID: 836f5d35 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Today" logically signals that the information in the sentence—that the museum is able to display close to 30% of its collection—is true of the Art Institute of Chicago as it exists in the present day after the previously mentioned unveiling of the massive new gallery in 2009.

Choice A is incorrect because "additionally" illogically signals that the information in the sentence is merely an additional fact related to the information about the museum before the new gallery opened. Instead, the sentence is about the museum in the present day after the new gallery opened. Choice B is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in the sentence exemplifies the previous information about the museum before the new gallery opened. Instead, the sentence is about the museum in the present day after the new gallery opened. Choice C is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information in the sentence is true despite the previous information about the museum before the new gallery opened. Instead, the sentence is about the museum in the present day after the new gallery opened.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 0a09f156

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 0a09f156

In most deer species, males grow antlers, and females don't. _____ reindeer are different. They are the only deer species in which the females grow antlers, too.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Next,
- C. However,
- D. Thus,

ID: 0a09f156 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "However" logically signals that the claim about reindeer in this sentence contrasts with the information about most deer species in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to the previous information about most deer species. Instead, it contrasts with that information. Choice B is incorrect because "next" illogically signals that the claim about reindeer in this sentence is the next step in a process. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information about most deer species. Choice D is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence results from the previous information about most deer species. Instead, it contrasts with that information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 785d8abc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 785d8abc

Resins play several important roles in maintaining the health of conifers and many other kinds of trees. _____ resins quickly seal wounds, which helps prevent harmful insects and fungi from entering trees. These sticky substances also help trees retain water that is needed for them to survive.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. Regardless,
- C. Next,
- D. For example,

ID: 785d8abc Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that resins quickly seal wounds to help prevent harmful insects and fungi from entering trees—provides a specific example to support the previous sentence’s claim about resins playing several important roles in maintaining tree health.

Choice A is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous claim about resins playing several important roles in maintaining tree health. Instead, the sentence provides a specific example of one such role. Choice B is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous claim about resins playing several important roles in maintaining tree health. Instead, the sentence provides a specific example of one such role. Choice C is incorrect because “next” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is the next step in a process. Instead, the sentence provides a specific example to support the previous claim that resins play several important roles in maintaining tree health.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 10ee0eac

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 10ee0eac

The number of dark spots that appear on the Sun, known as sunspots, can vary greatly. For example, there were about 180 sunspots in November 2001. _____ there were only about 2 sunspots in December 2008.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Therefore,
- D. By comparison,

ID: 10ee0eac Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “By comparison” logically signals that the information in this sentence about the number of sunspots in December 2008 offers a point of comparison with the previous sentence, which indicates the number of sunspots in November 2001. The two sentences work together to support the claim that the number of these spots “can vary greatly.”

Choice A is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that this sentence restates the information in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence presents new information, offering a point of comparison to the previous sentence. Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the example in this sentence is similar to the example in the previous sentence. In fact, the examples of numbers of sunspots are very different. Choice C is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that this sentence has a cause-and-effect relationship to the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence presents new information, offering a point of comparison to the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID aedc639b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: aedc639b

Famous for its four-degree tilt, the leaning Garisenda Tower is a popular attraction in Bologna’s city center. However, measurements taken in 2023 showed that the tower was rotating in a concerning way. _____ city officials closed the area around the tower so experts could explore solutions to stabilize the historical twelfth-century structure.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. As a result,
- C. For example,
- D. In comparison,

ID: aedc639b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "As a result" logically signals that the action described in this sentence—closing the area around Garisenda Tower to explore stabilization solutions—occurred as a consequence or result of measurements revealing the tower’s concerning rotation.

Choice A is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the action of closing the tower area is similar to the discovery of concerning rotation described in the previous sentence. Instead, closing the area around the tower to explore solutions occurred as a result of the measurements revealing the rotation. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the action of closing the tower area serves as an example of the tower’s concerning rotation described in the previous sentence. Instead, closing the area around the tower to explore solutions occurred as a result of the measurements revealing the rotation. Choice D is incorrect because "in comparison" illogically signals that the action of closing the tower area is being compared to the discovery of concerning rotation described in the previous sentence. Instead, closing the area around the tower to explore solutions occurred as a result of the measurements revealing the rotation.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 721c0e80

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 721c0e80

With darkness falling, a mother elephant loses sight of her calf and wants to make sure it is safe. _____ she releases an infrasonic call for the calf to hear. Infrasonic sound is below the range of human hearing, but many animals can hear these sounds from several miles away.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Nowadays,
- D. Similarly,

ID: 721c0e80 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "For this reason" is a cause-and-effect transition. The cause in this case is that the mother elephant wants to know that her calf is safe, so the effect is that she lets out an infrasonic call for the calf to hear. Therefore, "for this reason" fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces an example of a previous idea. But the second sentence doesn't provide an example of the events described in the first sentence. Instead, it describes what happens next: the mother elephant calls for her calf. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift from the past to the current time, which doesn't make sense here. Both sentences use the present tense, as they're describing the same time period. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates commonality or agreement between two ideas. But this sentence isn't similar to the events in the first sentence. Instead, it describes the events that happen next.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 092a758f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 092a758f

By 1936, Spanish Romani dancer Carmen Amaya was known all over Spain for her powerful style of flamenco dancing. However, in July of that year, the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War made it difficult for her to perform in her home country. _____ Amaya left Spain to perform abroad, dancing for audiences across North and South America.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In comparison,
- B. As a result,
- C. First of all,
- D. For example,

ID: 092a758f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “As a result” logically signals that the information in this sentence about Amaya leaving Spain to perform abroad is a result of the previous information about the Spanish Civil War.

Choice A is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is being compared to the previous information about the Spanish Civil War. Instead, Amaya leaving Spain is a result of that war. Choice C is incorrect because “first of all” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is the beginning of a sequence of events. Instead, Amaya leaving Spain is a result of the event (the outbreak of war) described in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example supporting the previous statement about the Spanish Civil War. Instead, Amaya leaving Spain is a result of that war.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 0decf4ff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 0decf4ff

Preston Singletary is a Tlingit glass artist who often collaborates with other artists. _____ he has worked with Tewa pottery artist Jody Naranjo several times. Together, Singletary and Naranjo have created pottery-inspired glass pieces such as *Sunset Stampede* and *Kiva Steps*.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In conclusion,
- B. For example,
- C. However,
- D. In comparison,

ID: 0decf4ff Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "For example" logically signals that this sentence—noting Singletary’s work with Jody Naranjo—provides an example supporting the previous point about Singletary’s collaborations with other artists.

Choice A is incorrect because "in conclusion" illogically signals that the information in this sentence concludes or summarizes the previous point about Singletary’s collaborations with other artists. Instead, it provides an example in support of that point. Choice C is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous point about Singletary’s collaborations with other artists. Instead, it provides an example in support of that point. Choice D is incorrect because "in comparison" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is being compared to the previous point about Singletary’s collaborations with other artists. Instead, it provides an example in support of that point.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 7a5fd34f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 7a5fd34f

In 1949, Frank Zamboni developed an ice rink resurfacing machine. As Zamboni’s machine moved along the rink’s surface, it first scraped off the top layer of ice. _____ it sprayed water into the deep grooves left behind by customers’ skates. Lastly, it smoothed over the newly formed ice.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Next,
- C. Similarly,
- D. In contrast,

ID: 7a5fd34f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Next" logically signals that the action in this sentence—the water spraying—is the next step in the resurfacing process, following the ice scraping mentioned in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the action in this sentence is an example of the action in the previous sentence. Instead, the water spraying is the next step in a process that begins with the ice scraping. Choice C is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the action in this sentence is similar to the action in the previous sentence. Instead, the water spraying is the next step in a process that begins with the ice scraping. Choice D is incorrect because "in contrast" illogically signals that the action in this sentence contrasts with the action in the previous sentence. Instead, the water spraying is the next step in a process that begins with the ice scraping.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 1c2eff41

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 1c2eff41

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,

ID: 1c2eff41 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Finally" logically signals that the actions in this sentence—the removal, cataloging, and analysis of artifacts—are the next and final steps in a process, following the previous actions of surveying, digging, recording, and mapping.

Choice A is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the actions in this sentence are an example of the actions in the previous sentence. Instead, the removal, cataloging, and analysis of artifacts are the next and final steps in a process. Choice B is incorrect because "on the contrary" illogically signals that the actions in this sentence are directly opposed to the actions in the previous sentence. Instead, the removal, cataloging, and analysis of artifacts are the next and final steps in a process. Choice C is incorrect because "earlier" illogically signals that the actions in this sentence occur before the actions in the previous sentence. Instead, the removal, cataloging, and analysis of artifacts are the next and final steps in a process.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f3f485f2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: f3f485f2

“O2 Arena,” an award-winning science fiction story by Nigerian author Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, takes place in an alternate version of Nigeria where breathable air is a rare commodity that is owned and sold by companies. _____ people must purchase it with currency called O2 credits.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. In any case,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Earlier,

ID: f3f485f2 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The second sentence describes a consequence of the system laid out in the first sentence: because air is owned and sold by companies in this world, people have to buy it.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that means “no matter what happens” or “whatever the situation is,” which doesn’t make sense here. There’s only one situation described in the text: a fictional world in which companies own all the breathable air, forcing people to buy it. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. They both describe the same fictional situation. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift back in time, which doesn’t make sense here. Both sentences use the present tense, as they’re describing the same fictional time period.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 1914238e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 1914238e

Laetitia Ky’s hair is her art. Inspired by hairstyles from various African tribes, the Ivorian artist uses wire and thread to sculpt her hair into all kinds of shapes. _____ she once made her hair into the shape of the continent of Africa—including the island of Madagascar!

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Soon,
- B. Elsewhere,
- C. For example,
- D. However,

ID: 1914238e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the following information about Ky—that she once shaped her hair to look like Africa—is an example supporting the previous statement that she makes different shapes with her hair.

Choice A is incorrect because “soon” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred soon after the statement about Ky making different shapes with her hair. Instead, the sentence provides an example of one of these shapes. Choice B is incorrect because “elsewhere” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred in a different place than the statement about Ky making different shapes with her hair. Instead, the sentence provides an example of one of these shapes. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the statement that Ky makes different shapes with her hair. Instead, the sentence provides an example of one of these shapes.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 14a68573

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 14a68573

In studying whether jellyfish sleep, researchers Michael Abrams, Claire Bedbrook, and Ravi Nath attempted to answer three questions. _____ is there a period each day when the pulse rates of jellyfish decline? Second, do jellyfish respond more slowly to stimuli during that period? Finally, if prevented from sleeping, are jellyfish adversely affected?

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. First,
- C. Additionally,
- D. However,

ID: 14a68573 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “First” logically signals that the question in this sentence—whether there is a daily period during which jellyfish pulse rates decline—is the first in a sequence of three questions the researchers attempted to answer about jellyfish sleep behavior.

Choice A is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the question in this sentence is a result of the three questions the researchers attempted to answer. Instead, it is the first of those three questions. Choice C is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the question in this sentence is an additional question related to the three questions the researchers attempted to answer. Instead, it is the first of those three questions. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the question in this sentence contrasts with the three questions the researchers attempted to answer. Instead, it is the first of those three questions.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 52fa334b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 52fa334b

Celebrated Tewa potter Maria Martinez (1887–1980) made her signature all-black ceramic vessels using a heating technique called reduction firing. This technique involves smothering the flame surrounding the clay vessel. _____ the vessel takes on a shiny, black hue.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. On the contrary,
- B. For example,
- C. Previously,
- D. As a result,

ID: 52fa334b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "As a result" logically signals that the information in this sentence—the vessel turning black—is a result of the heating technique discussed in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "on the contrary" illogically signals that the information in this sentence directly opposes the heating technique in the previous sentence. Instead, the vessel turns black as a result of that technique. Choice B is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example of the heating technique in the previous sentence. Instead, the vessel turns black as a result of that technique. Choice C is incorrect because "previously" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurs earlier in a chronological series of events than does the heating technique discussed in the first two sentences. Instead, the vessel turns black as a result of that technique.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f5733cf2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: f5733cf2

In the search for extraterrestrial life, astrobiologists Stuart Bartlett and Michael L. Wong propose that scientists avoid using the term “life.” _____ researchers should use another word: “lyfe.” This new term, they argue, could be used to draw distinctions between the known characteristics of life on Earth and the potentially differing characteristics of lyfe on other planets.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Previously,
- B. Regardless,
- C. There,
- D. Instead,

ID: f5733cf2 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Instead" logically signals that the idea in this sentence—that researchers should use the word "lyfe"—is an alternative to the idea mentioned in the previous sentence (scientists’ use of the word "life").

Choice A is incorrect because "previously" illogically signals that the idea in this sentence occurs before the action in the first sentence. Instead, the use of "lyfe" is an alternative to the previously mentioned use of "life." Choice B is incorrect because "regardless" illogically signals that the idea in this sentence is true despite the information in the first sentence. Instead, the use of "lyfe" is an alternative to the previously mentioned use of "life." Choice C is incorrect because "there" illogically signals that the idea in this sentence occurs in a place mentioned in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of "lyfe" is an alternative to the previously mentioned use of "life."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID af75e4a6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: af75e4a6

Ballet dancer Misty Copeland has accomplished a lot. She has appeared on Broadway, toured with Prince, and even served on the President’s Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition. _____ according to Copeland, nothing in her career matches the honor of being the first African American woman named principal dancer at the prestigious American Ballet Theatre.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Thus,
- B. However,
- C. For example,
- D. Second of all,

ID: af75e4a6 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "However" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that nothing in Copeland’s career matches her accomplishment of being the first African American woman named principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre—offers a contrast or exception to the previous information about Copeland’s accomplishments.

Choice A is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the information that follows is a result of the previous information about Copeland’s accomplishments. Instead, the statement that nothing in Copeland’s career matches this accomplishment offers a contrast or exception to that information. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that Copeland’s statement about her greatest accomplishment exemplifies the claim about her accomplishments in the previous sentence. Instead, it offers a contrast or exception to that information. Choice D is incorrect because "second of all" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second, separate claim from the previous sentence’s information about her accomplishments. Instead, the statement that nothing in Copeland’s career matches this accomplishment offers a contrast or exception to that information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 04f42627

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: 04f42627

In 1885, Chinese-born California resident Mary Tape became a hero of the Asian American civil rights movement. In January of that year, she won an antidiscrimination case in the California Supreme Court. _____ in April, she wrote an open letter criticizing her local board of education for discrimination. Both actions are remembered today as historic stands against racism.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Later,
- B. For instance,
- C. In other words,
- D. Rather,

ID: 04f42627 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Later" logically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence occurred later in a chronological sequence of events than did the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence is an example of the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the letter-writing is an event that occurred after the court case. Choice C is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the letter-writing is an event that occurred after the court case. Choice D is incorrect because "rather" illogically signals that the letter-writing discussed in this sentence is an alternative to the antidiscrimination case discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the letter-writing is an event that occurred after the court case.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID cf073edb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: cf073edb

As biologist Terrie Williams has documented, deep dives present a challenge for seals and other marine mammals. A seal must exert enough energy to propel itself hundreds of meters downward, while keeping its heart rate low enough that it doesn’t run out of oxygen while underwater. _____ a seal moves its flippers as little as possible on a deep dive, gliding to conserve energy.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In the first place,
- B. On the other hand,
- C. For this reason,
- D. In comparison,

ID: cf073edb Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “For this reason” logically signals that the behavior described in this sentence is a consequence of the information about seals in the previous sentence. That is, a seal moves its flippers as little as possible during a deep dive because it needs to keep its heart rate low enough that it does not run out of oxygen.

Choice A is incorrect because “in the first place” illogically signals that this sentence is the first point in a discussion. Instead, the sentence describes a behavior that is a consequence of the previous information about seals. Choice B is incorrect because “on the other hand” illogically signals that the behavior described in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about seals. Instead, it is a consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the behavior described in this sentence is being compared to the previous information about seals. Instead, it is a consequence of that information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ffbbc28f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	

ID: ffbbc28f

In 2014, Nestor Gomez won his first-ever storytelling competition, relating a tale about his life as a Guatemalan immigrant living in Chicago. _____ in 2017, Gomez created the show *80 Minutes Around the World* as a platform for others to share stories about their immigration experiences.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. For example,
- C. Later,
- D. In other words,

ID: ffbbc28f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Later" logically signals that the information in the sentence—that in 2017 Gomez created a platform for others to share stories about their immigration experiences—occurs later in a chronological series of events than the previous information about Gomez winning his first storytelling competition in 2014.

Choice A is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that Gomez created a platform for others to share stories about their immigration experiences as an alternative to winning his first storytelling competition. Rather, Gomez created the platform later—in a chronological series of events—than when he won the competition. Choice B is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information about Gomez creating a platform for others to share stories exemplifies his winning his first storytelling competition. Rather, Gomez created the platform later—in a chronological series of events—than when he won the competition. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information about Gomez creating a platform for others to share stories is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about Gomez winning his first storytelling competition. Rather, Gomez created the platform later—in a chronological series of events—than when he won the competition.

Question Difficulty: Easy