

Transitions: choose the logical relationship first

SAT · SAT · SAT

Scope and prerequisites

Digital SAT framework; original paper practice is nonadaptive and gives no scaled-score prediction.

- Identify contrast, consequence, example and continuation relationships
- Choose a transition that preserves the argument's logic
- Distinguish logical linking from punctuation requirements

Prerequisites: Read both sides of a blank; distinguish logic from punctuation.

Explain and choose the method

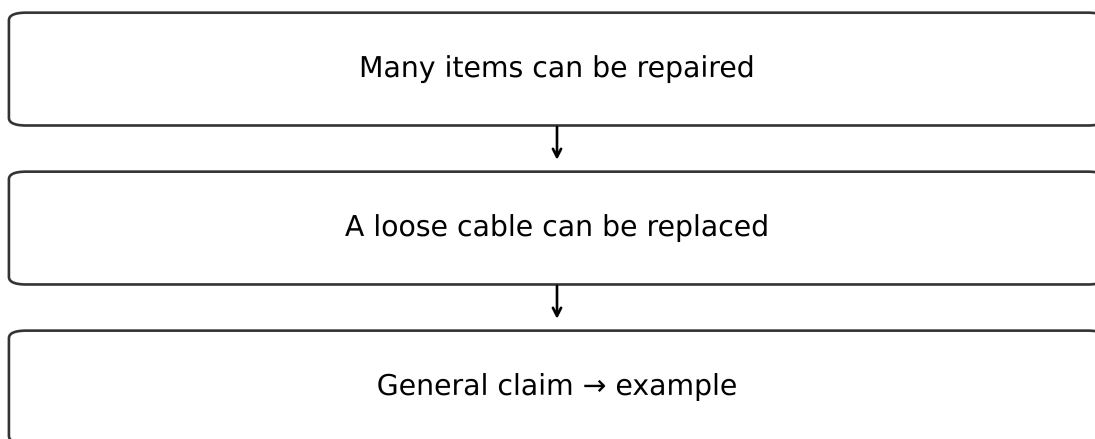
Temporarily ignore the blank and state how the two ideas relate. Does the next sentence add another instance, give a result, present an example, correct an expectation or shift to a different topic? A short label such as contrast is more useful than choosing a familiar connective immediately.

Consequential transitions such as *therefore* need a supported result. *However* and *nevertheless* introduce contrast or concession, while *for example* introduces an instance of a broader claim. *Similarly* compares a matching relationship, not merely two sentences mentioning the same noun. Use the meaning of both sides, including negatives.

A concession acknowledges a point while maintaining a different conclusion. “The route is shorter; nevertheless, it takes longer at rush hour” contrasts distance with travel time. *In fact* can strengthen or correct a statement; it is not a generic substitute for *additionally*. Test the chosen word by paraphrasing the relationship aloud.

Logical correctness does not remove sentence-boundary rules. *However* is not a coordinating conjunction joining independent clauses with a comma alone. In a transition question, supplied punctuation may already be fixed; in an editing task, punctuation also needs checking. Keep these two decisions distinct.

A transition names a logical relationship. “The line is shorter. However, it moves more slowly” contrasts size with the expected speed benefit. “Many items can be repaired. For example, a loose cable can be replaced” moves from general statement to instance. Neither relationship is caused merely by sharing a subject.



Original diagram of the worked relationship; read the full wording and qualifications.

Existing worked example: Original passage: “The new device is smaller than its predecessor. However, it requires more frequent charging.” The second sentence limits an expected benefit; therefore would incorrectly make frequent charging a logical result of small size without evidence . “Several birds use tools. For example, one species uses twigs to retrieve food” moves from a general claim to an instance.

Complete original context

Original passage: The new catalogue can be searched from home. [1] Readers no longer need to travel merely to find a likely shelf number. It still omits several collections. [2] A reader looking for an unlisted item must contact staff. Some entries also use abbreviations. [3] “MS” identifies a manuscript rather than a printed book.

Independent practice and checked reasoning

■ Transfer 1

Choose the best relationships at [1], [2], [3], then supply suitable transitions. Explain each link.

Reasoning: [1] consequence: “Therefore,” links remote search to avoiding a search-only trip. [2] consequence: “Consequently,” links missing entries to contacting staff for those items. [3] example: “For example,” introduces one abbreviation. Equivalent transitions expressing those relations are acceptable.

■ Transfer 2

Rewrite the second pair with a contrast between remote access and incomplete coverage, using however and correct sentence boundaries.

Reasoning: “The catalogue can be searched from home; however, it still omits several

collections.” A full stop before “However,” also works. However expresses a limitation but cannot join two independent clauses with a comma alone.

■ Transfer 3

Why would similarly be weak at [3], and why would therefore be weak in “The guide is free. _____, it is only available on weekdays”?

Reasoning: The abbreviation is an instance of a general category, not a second parallel comparison, so for example is clearer. Weekday-only availability limits an advantage; being free does not by itself cause that schedule. However can express that contrast.

Limits and next use

Shared subject matter does not decide the link. Do not choose therefore unless a consequence is actually supported.

All tasks here are public original practice with authored guidance. They are not official questions or fresh diagnostics. Existing protected tests and mocks remain separate.