Expression of Ideas

Original skill preparation; versioned source scope

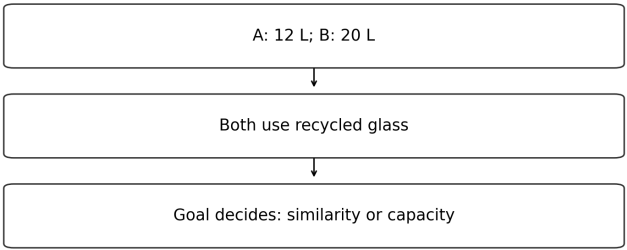
Expression of Ideas on the SAT

- Use **rhetorical synthesis** 修辞综合: choose information from a writer's notes that meets a stated goal.
- Choose the **transition** 衔接词 that shows the right relationship between two ideas.
- Recognise a **contrast marker** 转折标记 and a word that shows **similarity** 相似.

Rhetorical synthesis

- Read the goal first, and underline its key words.
- Choose the option that does exactly that, using only facts from the notes.
- An option can be accurate and well written but meet a different goal.
- **Synthesis 综合** here means combining notes, not adding new claims.

Figure: Rhetorical synthesis



- Worked steps: A: 12 L; B: 20 L $\rightarrow$ Both use recycled glass $\rightarrow$ Goal decides: similarity or capacity
- Match each part of the diagram to the text.

Transitions

- Addition: furthermore, in addition, also.
- Contrast: however, nevertheless, by contrast, yet.
- Cause and result: therefore, as a result, consequently.

Transitions (2)

- Example: for example, for instance. Sequence: then, finally, subsequently.
- Similarity: likewise, similarly.

Choosing precisely

- Keep the meaning of the notes; do not add a cause, a number or an opinion they do not contain.
- A shorter, clearer option is usually better if it says the same.
- Read the sentence before and after: the transition must fit both.

Worked example: two goals

- Goal: emphasise a similarity. "Both Bay and Hill used volunteer teams."
- Goal: emphasise a difference in distance. "Hill restored 5 km of paths, 2 km more than Bay."
- "Hill's volunteers worked harder" adds a cause the notes do not give.

Worked example: a transition

- Both sentences are advantages, so the link is addition.
- "Moreover" or "In addition" fits. "However" would signal a contrast that is not there.
- If the second sentence were "they cost more", the link would be contrast: "However".

Common errors

- Choosing an accurate option that does not meet the stated goal.
- Adding information that is not in the notes.
- Choosing a transition by its sound, before deciding the relationship.

Common errors (2)

- Using "therefore" when the second idea is not a result of the first.
- Ignoring the sentence after the blank.

Key terms

- **rhetorical synthesis**: Choosing and combining information from notes to achieve a stated purpose.
- **transition**: A word or phrase that shows how two ideas are related.
- **contrast marker**: A transition that signals a difference, such as "however".
- **similarity**: Something two things have in common.

Check yourself

- "The plan was cheap. ____, it was popular." Which transition fits?
- "The bridge was closed for repairs. ____, traffic moved to the ring road." Which kind of relationship is this?
- A goal says "present the study's main finding". Should the answer describe its method?