

Transitions: what comes next

Type	Signals	What follows
Adding	additionally, in addition, also, and, as well as, furthermore, likewise, moreover, similarly, not only...but also	More of the same idea
Example	for example, for instance, specifically	An illustration of the point
Clarifying	essentially, in other words, put another way, that is	The same idea, restated
Emphasizing	indeed, in fact	A stronger version of the point
Sequence	first, second, third, next, then, before, after, later, last, lastly, finally	The next step or event
Contrast	although, though, but, however, yet, despite, in spite of, nevertheless, nonetheless, even so, instead, rather, conversely, in contrast, on the contrary, on the other hand, whereas, while, meanwhile, still, unlike, regardless	A turn — often the new idea, and so the answer
Cause and effect	because, so, thus, therefore, consequently, as a result, for this reason, due to — or a colon or a dash	A reason or a result

Text structures

- ✓ **Chronological:** time order — dates, *first, next, before, after, later, finally*. A writer may start in the middle or flash back for effect
- ✓ **Cause and effect:** one event produces another, as Tom and Huck's windfall changes how the town treats them
- ✓ **Old idea, new idea:** a belief, a transition, then what replaces it
- ✓ **Compare and contrast:** likenesses (*similarly, likewise*) and differences (*in contrast, whereas*)
- ✓ **Problem and solution:** a problem, then how it was or could be solved
- ✓ **Descriptive:** pictures a person, place or scene — *for example, looks like, sounds like, smells like*
- ✓ **Classification:** sorts information into categories, with details for each — clouds by height
- ✓ **Persuasive:** a claim, its support, perhaps a refuted counterargument, and a call to action

Structure questions

- ✓ Find the transition words
- ✓ Decide how what comes after each one relates to what came before
- ✓ If a passage promises three reasons, find all three
- ✓ Predict the structure, then choose the answer that describes the beginning, middle and end

Science passages

Not every part appears, but they come in this order:

- ✓ An **old idea** as the hook
- ✓ The **new question**, hypothesis or problem
- ✓ Other hypotheses or experiments, and where they fell short
- ✓ The scientists' **hypothesis** and how the experiment was designed
- ✓ The **outcome** — what was learned, and what remains unclear
- ✓ Where research goes next: science passages rarely call a question settled

Social-science passages

- ✓ Studies replace experiments: **surveys, observational research, analyses of existing data**
- ✓ A claim, how it was investigated, and the results
- ✓ A **literature review** summarizes and analyzes work already done in the field
- ✓ Expect: the main idea, the evidence for the claim, which detail would support the hypothesis, and the study's criticisms and limitations

Literary passages

- ✓ Who or what is the passage mainly about, and what does its ending say?
- ✓ Where are the transitions, and what relationship do they suggest?
- ✓ Has a character had a realization or faced a challenge?
- ✓ In dialogue, label each speaker by initial — especially when *he said* and *she replied* are left out