

# SAT Transitions Cheat Sheet

## TRANSITIONS BY RELATIONSHIP

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### 1. ADD INFORMATION

Function: Adds more of the same idea (supporting detail)

Words:

Also, And, Furthermore, In addition, Moreover

What it does:

Expands or continues the same idea

Example:

The method is efficient. Furthermore, it reduces costs.

Use case on SAT:

- Both sentences support the same claim
- No contrast, no cause — just MORE information

Student strategy:

If sentence 2 = “another reason / another detail” → choose ADD

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### 2. EMPHASIZE

Function: Strengthens or reinforces an idea

Words:

In fact, Indeed

What it does:

Makes the statement stronger, often surprising

Example:

The results were impressive. In fact, they exceeded expectations.

Use case on SAT:

- Second sentence intensifies the first
- Often shows something stronger than expected

Student strategy:

If sentence 2 = “stronger version” → choose EMPHASIS

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### 3. GIVE EXAMPLE

Function: Provides a specific example

Words:

For example, For instance, Specifically

What it does:

Moves from general → specific

Example:

Many animals migrate. For example, birds travel long distances.

Use case on SAT:

- First sentence is general
- Second gives a case

Student strategy:

If sentence 2 = example → choose EXAMPLE

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#### 4. DEFINE / CLARIFY

Function: Restates or explains

Words:

Effectively, Essentially, In other words, That is

What it does:

Rephrases the same idea more clearly

Example:

The process is inefficient. In other words, it wastes time.

Use case on SAT:

- Same meaning, different wording

Student strategy:

If sentence 2 = restatement → choose CLARIFY

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#### 5. COMPARE

Function: Shows similarity

Words:

Likewise, Similarly

What it does:

Shows two ideas are alike

Example:

Plants need sunlight. Similarly, animals need food.

Use case on SAT:

- Two parallel ideas

Student strategy:

If ideas match → choose COMPARE

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## 6. SEQUENCE / TIME

Function: Shows order or timeline

Words:

Previously, Subsequently, Finally, While

What it does:

Shows progression of events

Example:

The system failed initially. Subsequently, improvements were made.

Use case on SAT:

- Events in order
- Process explanation

Student strategy:

If sentence = timeline → choose SEQUENCE

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## 7. CAUSE AND EFFECT

Function: Shows reason → result

Words:

Accordingly, As a result, As such, Because, Consequently, For, Hence, Since, So, Thus, Therefore, To this end

What it does:

Explains WHY something happens or its RESULT

Examples:

The data was flawed. Therefore, the conclusion was invalid.

The company needed efficiency. To this end, it automated processes.

Use case on SAT:

- Sentence 2 is result of sentence 1
- OR sentence explains cause

Student strategy:

Ask:

“Does sentence 2 happen BECAUSE of sentence 1?”

Key distinction:

- Because / Since = cause
- Therefore / Thus = result

## 8. CONTRAST / CONTRADICTION

Function: Shows opposition or difference

Words:

Although, But, However, Conversely, In contrast, Instead, Yet, Nevertheless, Nonetheless, Even though, Despite, In spite of, Still, Whereas, While, Rather, Otherwise, On the contrary, On the other hand, Regardless, In any case, Meanwhile, Even so

What it does:

Shows conflict, contradiction, or shift

Examples:

The method is popular. However, it is ineffective.

He studied hard. Yet, he failed.

Use case on SAT:

- Two ideas go in opposite directions
- Expectation vs reality

Student strategy:

Ask:

“Is sentence 2 going against sentence 1?”

Scorehigh