

Let's look at this sentence:

Formula 1 race cars are designed with light weight and aerodynamic parts that enable them to achieve incredible speeds. All Formula 1 race cars are equipped with carbon fiber parts.

Given the lay out of the two sentences, we would assume that *carbon fiber parts* are light weight and aerodynamic. A transition phrase can be used to further clarify the relationship between the two sentences:

Example 1:

Modern day Formula 1 race cars are designed with light weight and aerodynamic parts that enable them to achieve incredible speeds. **For example**, all Formula 1 race cars are equipped with carbon fiber parts.

But wait- a transition could have also lead the reader to the exact opposite conclusion:

Example 2:

Modern day Formula 1 race cars are designed with light weight and aerodynamic parts that enable them to achieve incredible speeds. **In spite of this**, all Formula 1 race cars are equipped with carbon fiber parts.

The right transition defines and explains the relationship between two sentences. The wrong transition word skews the intended meaning in the wrong direction. On the SAT, you'll have to read the passage to understand the authors intended meaning and then choose the transition that reflects this. So long as you don't lose sight of the forest for the trees, these types of questions shouldn't be too difficult to tackle.

Example 3:

Wrong:	Biologist had long thought that Antarctica was a barren wasteland devoid of life. Nevertheless , they decided to utilize their resources to study the Amazon rain forest.
Correct:	Biologist had long thought that Antarctica was a barren wasteland devoid of life. Because of this , they decided to utilize their resources to study the Amazon rain forest.

Nevertheless implies contrast or a counterpoint. When we see *Nevertheless*, we expect the scientists to utilize their resources to study in Antarctica *despite the facts* suggested in the first sentence.

Example 4:

Wrong:	Scientists have predicted that global warming is about to reach a critical point, and that we must act fast to prevent it. Many countries have promised to invest in renewable fuel sources. For example , the U.S.A has made several trade deals to purchase more oil for the next 20 years.
Correct:	Scientists have predicted that global warming is about to reach a critical point, and that we must act fast to prevent it. Many countries have promised to invest in renewable fuel sources. Despite this , the U.S.A has made several trade deals to purchase more oil for the next 20 years.

For example is a transition that illustrates a point with further facts or explanation. In this sentence, scientists have warned the world about global warming, and countries are taking action to prevent it. Thus, the sentence following immediately after *for example* should tell us some action taken by some country that logically fits with this context. The U.S.A buying oil goes completely against the context, and so the transition does not make sense.

The chart below is designed to help you with transition words and their intended direction:

Continuers		Contradictors
Continue	Speculate	Contrast
Additionally	Could	Although
Also	If	But
And	It is possible	Despite
As well as	May	However
Finally	Maybe	In spite of
First	Might	Instead
Furthermore	Perhaps	Meanwhile
In addition		Nevertheless
More over	Call to attention, Highlight or Emphasize	On the other hand
Next		Rather
Then	Indeed	Still
	In fact	Whereas
Illustrate, Support	Let me be clear	While
		Yet
For example	Capital letters	Question, Imply Skepticism
For instance	Exclamation point	But is it really true?
One reason, another reason	Italics	Question marks
		Quotation marks
Explain	Indicate Important	
Because	Central	
That is	Crucial	
The reason is	Essential	
The answer is	Fundamental	
	Important	
Colon	Key	
Dash	Significant	
Define	Conclusion	
That is to say	As a result	
Properly speaking	Consequently	
	Hence	
Colon	So	
Dash	Therefore	
Parenthesis	Thus	
Compare	Qualify	
As	Dashes	
Just as	Parenthesis	
Like(wise)		
Much as		
Similarly to		

Transition questions on Official practice tests:

Practice Test	Questions
1	9, 14, 27, 34, 38
2	2, 12, 25, 40, 44
3	9
4	2, 15, 17, 39
5	8, 12, 25, 28, 43
6	9, 13, 31, 32