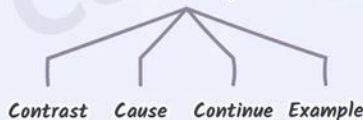


name the relationship first, pick the word second

What this question actually tests

- a short passage with one blank, and four transition words or phrases to fill it
- the stem never changes: which choice completes the passage with the most logical transition
- the test is the relationship between what comes before the blank and what comes after it, nothing else
- grammar will not decide it. All four options fit the slot grammatically, which is exactly why the wrong ones read smoothly

What the next part does



one root branching into the four relationships drawn side by side at the same level. Almost every blank in this domain is one of them

these are the fastest questions in the paper once you stop reading the options first. The relationship is decidable from the two sentences alone

cover the options: what does the part after the blank do to the part before it

it pushes back
or turns

Contrast

however, by contrast, nevertheless, instead

it follows from
it

Cause or result

therefore, as a result, consequently

it adds more of
the same

Continues

in addition, moreover, similarly

it makes it
concrete

Example

for example, for instance, specifically

decide the branch before you look down at the options. Once you know which of the four you need, three choices usually fall away at a glance

The four-step routine

- cover the four options with a finger or your eyes and do not read them yet
- read the clause before the blank and say its point in a few words
- read the clause after the blank and say its point the same way
- name the relationship, then uncover the options and find the word that carries it



four named stops in order along one dashed path with no way back: cover the choices, read what is before the blank, read what is after, and only then name the relationship