

Transition Word Families for SAT Writing

Thus/Therefore/Consequently/Accordingly all mean “as a result”

However/Whereas all mean “contrast between two equal parts”

Additionally/Alternatively/Moreover all mean “also”

Likewise/Similarly all mean “in a similar manner”

Despite/In Spite of/Notwithstanding/Nevertheless all mean “although”

For Instance/For Example all mean “a specific example follows”

In Fact/Indeed all mean “emphasize the previous sentence”

Coordination is connecting two Independent Clause

If using a comma, must use a Coordinating Conjunction

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For, And, Neither, But, Or, Yet, So

Note: Without Coordinating Conjunction the two sentences become run-on (comma splice)

Example: London is a very old city, but it also has many modern buildings.

Can also join two independent clauses with Semicolon

Example: London is a very old city; it also has many modern buildings.

Can also join two independent clauses with Semicolon + Conjunctive Adverb

Example: London is a very old city; however, it also has many modern buildings.

Subordination is connecting one Independent Clause with one Dependent Clause

If using a comma, after Independent Clause, Dependent Clause must be

- 1) which or who (for person)
- 2) participle (verb with “ing” ending)
- 3) appositive (noun clause)

Examples:

London is a very old city, which includes many ancient ruins.

London is a very old city, including many ancient ruins.

London is a very old city, the oldest in all of Europe.

If Dependent Clause is before the Independent Clause and has no subject, the subject (noun or pronoun) must follow comma.

Example: Born in Hawaii in 1961, Barack Obama became the 44th President of the United States.