

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was a prominent classical music composer from England who toured the US three times in the early 1900s. The child of a West African father and an English mother, Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry. For example, he referred to himself as Anglo-African. _____ he incorporated the sounds of traditional African music into his classical music compositions.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In addition,
- B. Actually,
- C. However,
- D. Regardless,

In 1968, US Congressman John Conyers introduced a bill to establish a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The bill didn't make it to a vote, but Conyers was determined. He teamed up with Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to be elected to Congress, and they resubmitted the bill every session for the next fifteen years. _____ in 1983, the bill passed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. Likewise,
- C. Finally,
- D. Additionally,

It has long been thought that humans first crossed a land bridge into the Americas approximately 13,000 years ago. _____ based on radiocarbon dating of samples uncovered in Mexico, a research team recently suggested that humans may have arrived more than 30,000 years ago—much earlier than previously thought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Similarly,
- C. However,
- D. In conclusion,

Researchers believe that pieces of hull found off Oregon's coast are from a Spanish cargo ship that was lost in 1697. Stories passed down among the area's Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians support this belief. _____ Siletz stories describe how blocks of beeswax, an item the ship had been carrying, began washing ashore after the ship was lost.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For this reason,
- B. For example,
- C. However,
- D. Likewise,

Geoscientists have long considered Hawaii's Mauna Loa volcano to be Earth's largest shield volcano by volume, measuring approximately 74,000 cubic kilometers. _____ according to a 2020 study by local geoscientist Michael Garcia, Hawaii's Pūhāhonu shield volcano is significantly larger, boasting a volume of about 148,000 cubic kilometers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Secondly,
- B. Consequently,
- C. Moreover,
- D. However,

Before the 1847 introduction of the US postage stamp, the cost of postage was usually paid by the recipient of a letter rather than the sender, and recipients were not always able or willing to pay promptly. _____ collecting this fee could be slow and arduous, and heaps of unpaid-for, undeliverable mail piled up in post offices.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. Consequently,
- D. For example,

A potter choosing which type of clay to use for a piece considers two key factors: the desired look of the piece and its intended use. _____ earthenware clay is often used for decorative pieces because of its rustic look. This type of clay is not often used in industrial settings, though, because it is less durable than other clays.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Regardless,
- C. In conclusion,
- D. For example,

In Gothic architecture, flying buttresses are large arches that help support a building's exterior walls. Before the Gothic era, cathedrals' heavy ceilings had to be supported by thick, short walls, but the invention of flying buttresses eliminated this need. _____ Gothic cathedrals could be built with thinner, higher walls.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. For instance,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. As a result,

Tyrian purple was a highly prized dye among the Phoenicians (an ancient civilization located in present-day Lebanon). The Phoenicians were famous for using this natural dye to color their clothes a distinctive purple. _____ the name "Phoenicia" itself, some historians claim, may have originally meant "land of purple."

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. Regardless,
- C. Lastly,
- D. On the contrary,

Etched into Peru's Nazca Desert are line drawings so large that they can only be fully seen from high above. Archaeologists have known of the lines since the 1920s, when a researcher spotted some from a nearby foothill, and they have been studying the markings ever since. _____ archaeologists' efforts are aided by drones that capture high-resolution aerial photographs of the lines.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Currently,
- B. In comparison,
- C. Still,
- D. However,

Most conifers (trees belonging to the phylum Coniferophyta) are evergreen. That is, they keep their green leaves or needles year-round. However, not all conifer species are evergreen. Larch trees, _____ lose their needles every fall.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for instance,
- B. nevertheless,
- C. meanwhile,
- D. in addition,

Small, flat structures called spatulae are found at the tips of the hairs on a spider's leg. These spatulae temporarily bond with the atoms of whatever they touch. _____ spiders are able to cling to and climb almost any surface.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. However,
- C. Similarly,
- D. As a result,

As a young historian in the 1950s, Alixa Naff began interviewing fellow Arab American immigrants about their experiences straddling two cultures. Over the next few decades, Naff conducted more than 450 such interviews, also known as oral histories. _____ she collected photographs and other artifacts that represented her subjects' experiences.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. In addition,
- D. Today,

Neuroscientist Karen Konkoly wanted to determine whether individuals can understand and respond to questions during REM sleep. She first taught volunteers eye movements they would use to respond to basic math problems while asleep (a single left-right eye movement indicated the number one). _____ she attached electrodes to the volunteers' faces to record their eye movements during sleep.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. Next,
- C. For instance,
- D. In sum,

In June, female loggerhead sea turtles will swim back to the sandy beaches where they were born to lay eggs of their own. First, the turtle will dig her nest in the sand. _____ she will lay up to 100 eggs in the nest. Finally, she will cover it all with sand, before returning to the ocean.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Next,
- D. For example,

When Chinese director Chloé Zhao accepted the Oscar in 2021 for her film *Nomadland*, she made Academy Award history. _____ only one other woman, Kathryn Bigelow of the United States, had been named best director at the Oscars, making Zhao the second woman and the first Asian woman to win the award.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Previously,
- C. However,
- D. Likewise,

The envelope-shaped paper bags common in the US 150 years ago were impractical for carrying goods. _____ because they were the only paper bags that could be mass-produced, these bags dominated the market. That all changed in the 1870s, when industrial designer Margaret Knight patented a machine to make flat-bottomed, foldable paper bags.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. For instance,
- C. Thus,
- D. In other words,

Although novels and poems are considered distinct literary forms, many authors have created hybrid works that incorporate elements of both. Bernardine Evaristo's *The Emperor's Babe*, _____ is a verse novel, a book-length narrative complete with characters and a plot but conveyed in short, crisp lines of poetry rather than prose.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. by contrast,
- B. consequently,
- C. secondly,
- D. for example,

In studying whether jellyfish sleep, researchers Michael Abrams, Claire Bedbrook, and Ravi Nath attempted to answer three questions. ____ is there a period each day when the pulse rates of jellyfish decline? Second, do jellyfish respond more slowly to stimuli during that period? Finally, if prevented from sleeping, are jellyfish adversely affected?

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. First,
- C. Additionally,
- D. However,

Every chemical compound has a spectroscopic fingerprint, a pattern of reflected light unique to that compound. _____ upon analyzing the light reflected by the bright regions on the surface of the dwarf planet Ceres, Maria Cristina De Sanctis of Rome's National Institute of Astrophysics was able to determine that the regions contain large amounts of the compound sodium carbonate.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. Meanwhile,
- C. Thus,
- D. In comparison,

Practical movie effects, such as the use of actual locations in a film, provide a more realistic visual experience than computer-generated imagery (CGI) does, but giving audiences the “real thing” can be prohibitively expensive. _____ many filmmakers use a blended approach, employing practical effects whenever possible and CGI elements as necessary to control costs.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Furthermore,
- D. In other words,

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's 2013 novel *Americanah* chronicles the divergent experiences of Ifemelu and Obinze, a young Nigerian couple, after high school. Ifemelu moves to the United States to attend a prestigious university. _____ Obinze travels to London, hoping to start a career there. However, frustrated with the lack of opportunities, he soon returns to Nigeria.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Meanwhile,
- B. Nevertheless,
- C. Secondly,
- D. In fact,

In the 1850s, William Still was instrumental in helping nearly 1,000 people escape from slavery, earning him the moniker “the Father of the Underground Railroad.” _____ despite the fame of his contributions during his lifetime, Still is discussed far less today than other prominent Black abolitionists from his era, such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. However,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Similarly,

In 2018, Kurt Luther and Vikram Mohanty created the web-based tool Civil War Photo Sleuth (CWPS). A user uploading an unknown Civil War soldier's photograph to CWPS first tags the photo with all known information. _____ CWPS's facial-recognition software analyzes twenty-seven different physical features and looks for matches to tagged images already in the database.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Then,
- B. In fact,
- C. Likewise,
- D. For example,

Arkansas aviator Louise Thaden was already a record breaker when she won the inaugural National Women's Air Derby, a race from California to Ohio, in August of 1929. _____ in December of 1928, Thaden had set an aviation record when she reached an altitude of 20,269 feet in a Travel Air biplane.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Earlier,
- B. However,
- C. Next,
- D. As a result,

With darkness falling, a mother elephant loses sight of her calf and wants to make sure it is safe. _____ she releases an infrasonic call for the calf to hear. Infrasonic sound is below the range of human hearing, but many animals can hear these sounds from several miles away.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Nowadays,
- D. Similarly,

The number of dark spots that appear on the Sun, known as sunspots, can vary greatly. For example, there were about 180 sunspots in November 2001. _____ there were only about 2 sunspots in December 2008.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Therefore,
- D. By comparison,

Organisms have evolved a number of surprising adaptations to ensure their survival in adverse conditions. Tadpole shrimp (*Triops longicaudatus*) embryos, _____ can pause development for over ten years during extended periods of drought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in contrast,
- B. for example,
- C. meanwhile,
- D. consequently,

By 1936, Spanish Romani dancer Carmen Amaya was known all over Spain for her powerful style of flamenco dancing. However, in July of that year, the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War made it difficult for her to perform in her home country. _____ Amaya left Spain to perform abroad, dancing for audiences across North and South America.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In comparison,
- B. As a result,
- C. First of all,
- D. For example,

"O2 Arena," an award-winning science fiction story by Nigerian author Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, takes place in an alternate version of Nigeria where breathable air is a rare commodity that is owned and sold by companies. _____ people must purchase it with currency called O2 credits.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. In any case,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Earlier,

As biologist Terrie Williams has documented, deep dives present a challenge for seals and other marine mammals. A seal must exert enough energy to propel itself hundreds of meters downward, while keeping its heart rate low enough that it doesn't run out of oxygen while underwater. _____ a seal moves its flippers as little as possible on a deep dive, gliding to conserve energy.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In the first place,
- B. On the other hand,
- C. For this reason,
- D. In comparison,

To explore how blinking affects social interactions, Dutch researchers observed interactions between human speakers and “listeners” (animated human faces on a screen). The researchers found that when the listeners blinked slowly, the speakers tended to talk for less time. _____ quicker blinks were associated with longer talking times.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Specifically,
- C. Firstly,
- D. By contrast,

In 1885, Chinese-born California resident Mary Tape became a hero of the Asian American civil rights movement. In January of that year, she won an antidiscrimination case in the California Supreme Court. _____ in April, she wrote an open letter criticizing her local board of education for discrimination. Both actions are remembered today as historic stands against racism.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Later,
- B. For instance,
- C. In other words,
- D. Rather,

During a 2021 launch, Rocket Labs' Electron rocket experienced an unexpected failure: its second-stage booster shut down suddenly after ignition. _____ instead of downplaying the incident, Rocket Labs' CEO publicly acknowledged what happened and apologized for the loss of the rocket's payload, which had consisted of two satellites.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Afterward,
- B. Additionally,
- C. Indeed,
- D. Similarly,

In 1891, dancer and choreographer Loie Fuller first performed her celebrated Serpentine Dance, artfully twirling her long, flowing skirt to create striking visual effects. _____ in 1896, cinema pioneers Auguste and Louis Lumière made a groundbreaking short film of Fuller's dance.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. In conclusion,
- C. Later,
- D. In other words,

Phytoplankton play a crucial role in the ocean's uptake of carbon from the atmosphere. When alive, these tiny marine organisms absorb atmospheric carbon via photosynthesis. _____ after they die, the phytoplankton sink to the seafloor, where the carbon in their cells gets stored in sediment, preventing it from cycling back into the atmosphere.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. By contrast,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Then,

Riley Black—the author of critically acclaimed books such as *My Beloved Brontosaurus* (2013)—is best known for writing about dinosaurs, but she has also conducted hands-on fieldwork. _____ her fieldwork has included paleontological digs in Utah, Montana, and Wyoming, and her dinosaur fossil discoveries can be seen at places such as the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. Subsequently,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Conversely,

Laetitia Ky's hair is her art. Inspired by hairstyles from various African tribes, the Ivorian artist uses wire and thread to sculpt her hair into all kinds of shapes. _____ she once made her hair into the shape of the continent of Africa—including the island of Madagascar!

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Soon,
- B. Elsewhere,
- C. For example,
- D. However,