

# TRANSITIONS EXERCISE

**Directions:** The following passages are from an article called “The Changing Family in International Perspective.” Examine the use of transitions throughout the passages and list the different transitions. What kind of meaning do they signal between two ideas?

1. Household compositions patterns over the past several decades have been away from the traditional nuclear family... and toward more single-parent households, more persons living alone, and more couples living together out of wedlock. Indeed, the “consensual union” has become a more visible and accepted family type in several countries.

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2. Scandinavian countries have been the pacesetters in the development of many of the nontraditional forms of family living, especially births outside of wedlock and cohabitation outside of legal marriage. Women in these societies also have the highest rates of labor force participation. However, in at least two aspects, the United States is setting the pace.

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3. Japan is the most traditional society of those studied, with very low rates of divorce and birth out of wedlock and the highest proportion of married-couple households. In fact, Japan is the only country studied in which the share of such households has increased since 1960.

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4. A trend toward the timing of this decline differs from country to country. In Scandinavia and Germany, for example, the downward trend in the marriage rate was already evident in the 1960’s.

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