

Smooth Connections Answer Key

Answers will vary. Sample correct responses are below.

1. The oak tree grows slowly, while the willow tree grows quickly.
2. A bicycle requires physical effort to move, while an electric scooter moves with battery power.
3. The mountain trail is steep, in contrast to the flat riverside trail.
4. A hardcover book feels sturdy, although a paperback book feels lighter in the hand.
5. The desert is extremely dry; however, the rainforest receives a lot of rainfall.

Teacher's Guide

- Explain that sentence combining builds stronger writing by replacing choppy statements with **connected, purposeful sentences**.
- Encourage students to choose transitions that clearly show comparison or contrast, not random connectors.
- For differentiation:
 - Offer a small transition word bank for students who need support.
 - Allow advanced students to add a second detail or vary sentence structure.
- For engagement:
 - Let students create their own pairs of statements about sports, foods, or animals, then trade with a partner to combine.
- For extension:
 - Ask students to turn two of their combined sentences into a short paragraph that uses both comparison and contrast.