

Smoother Transitions Answer Key

Sample revised paragraph with improved transitions:

The art studio was bright in the morning, and sunlight streamed across the long tables. As students prepared their supplies, jars of paint sat open beside scattered brushes. Meanwhile, a faint smell of clay drifted from the back shelves, filling the room with earthy warmth. By the time everyone settled in, the space felt ready for creativity.

(Any student version that adds purposeful transitions and improves flow is acceptable.)

Teacher's Guide

- Review common transitional words and phrases: meanwhile, as, next, later, eventually, by the time, in addition, however, although, afterward.
- Encourage students to think about the **relationship** between ideas: time, cause and effect, contrast, or addition.
- Have students underline places where one image jumps suddenly to another, then decide what transition fits.
- For support, provide a transition menu tailored to descriptive writing: as, while, beyond that, in the distance, along the tables, at the same time.
- Grades 6 to 8 may focus on linking two sentences at a time.
- Grades 9 to 12 should refine pacing, making sure transitions do not feel forced or repetitive.
- Allow peer readings to help students check if the flow feels natural.
- Extension idea: Give students a transition-free paragraph and challenge them to mark where transitions should go before rewriting.