

## Signal Word Detectives Answer Key

1. *but, whereas, however, although, yet* (any two accepted)
2. Liam likes the desert's heat; Zoe prefers the Arctic's cold.
3. They both love exploring and discovering new places.
4. They help the reader see differences between Liam and Zoe's actions or preferences.

### Teacher's Guide

- **Focus Skill:** Recognizing **contrast signal words** enhances comprehension and helps students see how writers connect opposite ideas.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
  - For younger learners, highlight one example together before reading the passage.
  - For advanced students, challenge them to replace existing contrast words with others that fit (e.g., *on the other hand, in contrast*).
- **Engagement Ideas:**
  - Play "Word Spy": students listen to a short paragraph read aloud and raise their hand each time they hear a contrast signal word.
  - Compare two short paragraphs-one with contrast words and one without-to discuss how meaning changes.
- **Extension Activities:**
  - Have students write mini-paragraphs comparing two characters, animals, or sports using at least three contrast signal words.
  - Encourage them to create color-coded posters that categorize signal words by purpose-**contrast, comparison, cause/effect**, etc.