

Choppy To Smooth Answer Key

Student answers will vary, but strong responses should:

- Include transitions such as **first**, **next**, **after that**, **then**, **finally**, or similar sequencing words.
- Smoothly connect the actions so the plot does not sound clipped or abrupt.
- Preserve the original meaning of the events.

Sample acceptable revision:

"**First**, Lila stepped onto the stage for her first piano recital. She sat down at the bench, but she **quickly realized** she had forgotten to adjust the seat. **After fixing** the bench, she began playing her piece. **Finally**, she hurried offstage after she finished."

Teacher's Guide

- Explain that transitions help readers follow the **flow** of a story.
- Point out that a plot can have strong ideas but still feel choppy without good sequencing.
- Model replacing abrupt sentences with phrases that link actions together.

Differentiation Tips

- Provide a transition word bank for students who need support.
- Highlight transitions in sample texts so students can see them in context.

Engagement Ideas

- Have students read their revised paragraphs aloud to compare pacing.
- Let pairs swap paragraphs and underline each other's transitions.

Extension Ideas

- Challenge students to add dialogue or sensory detail while keeping transitions clear.
- Encourage advanced writers to experiment with more sophisticated transitions such as **meanwhile**, **as a result**, or **in the meantime**.