Bridge the Moments

Read a model story to see how transitions connect events.

3.LF.41 "Use words and phrases in writing for effect and elaboration. a. Use transition words and phrases for sentence variety."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words and phrases that show when events happen, then underline the one that shows two things happening at the same time. Notice how these transitions help you follow the story.

The Paper Bridge Challenge

1. Our class had a challenge: build a paper bridge across two stacks of books. At first, my flat sheet sagged between the stacks. A single toy car made it droop even more. Next, I folded a new sheet back and forth like a fan. The folds made tall ridges. I set the ridges across the gap and held my breath.

2. Meanwhile, my partner Mia made a bridge by rolling her paper into tight tubes. She placed the tubes side by side. After that, we tested both bridges with toy cars. My folded bridge held two cars before it bent. Mia's bridge held three. For a moment, I wanted to copy her tubes, but I wondered if my ridges could work better.

3. Later, I made the ridges closer together and tried again. This time, my bridge held four cars. Mia cheered, then tested her bridge with one more car. It held four, too. In the end, we put both bridges on the class shelf. Our teacher wrote our car counts beside them. We had built different shapes, but each one carried the same load.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does “Meanwhile” fit at the start of the second paragraph?

2. Which transition shows that the test came after Mia placed her tubes side by side? Write it and explain what it connects.

3. How does “This time” help you follow what happened to the writer’s bridge?

4. What does “In the end” tell you about putting the bridges on the shelf?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a different challenge, real or made up. Use at least three different transitions, including one that shows two things happening at the same time.

ANSWER KEY

Bridge the Moments

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.41

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the words and phrases that show when events happen, then underline the one that shows two things happening at the same time. Notice how these transitions help you follow the story. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does “Meanwhile” fit at the start of the second paragraph?	**It shows that Mia worked on her bridge while the writer worked on a different bridge.**
2	Which transition shows that the test came after Mia placed her tubes side by side? Write it and explain what it connects.	**“After that” connects Mia placing the tubes to the test of both bridges.**
3	How does “This time” help you follow what happened to the writer’s bridge?	**It points to a new test after the writer moved the ridges closer together. In this test, the bridge held four cars.**
4	What does “In the end” tell you about putting the bridges on the shelf?	**It shows that putting the bridges on the shelf happened after the tests and closes the story.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I stacked blocks to build a tower. Meanwhile, my brother built a wide base for his tower. Next, I tried a wide base, too. In the end, both towers stood when the table shook.

For the marking job, accept time transitions such as “At first,” “Next,” “After that,” “Later,” and “In the end.” Students should underline “Meanwhile” as the transition showing events happening at the same time.