Heat Link Words

See how transitions connect explanations about city heat.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.2c "Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each transition word or phrase in the passage. In the margin, label the relationship it shows: sequence, addition, cause and effect, contrast, example, or conclusion.

Cooling a Hot City

1 On a hot day, pavement can make a neighborhood feel even warmer. Dark surfaces absorb sunlight and release heat slowly. As a result, cities often stay warmer than nearby rural areas after sunset. This pattern is called the urban heat island effect. However, heat is not spread evenly across a city. Blocks with few trees, wide roads, and many parking lots can become especially hot. Residents in those areas may face higher cooling costs and greater health risks during heat waves.

2 Trees can lower street temperatures in more than one way. First, their leaves provide shade, so less sunlight reaches sidewalks and roofs. In addition, water evaporates from leaves, a process that cools the surrounding air. Because mature trees need years to grow, planting them is not a quick fix. Still, city planners can pair new trees with other actions, such as using lighter roof materials and creating shaded bus stops. Together, these steps can make outdoor spaces safer during very hot weather.

3 Some cities are testing cool pavements, which reflect more sunlight than traditional dark pavement. For example, Los Angeles has applied light-colored coating to selected streets. The coating can reduce surface temperature, but it does not solve every heat problem. For instance, pedestrians still need shade and access to drinking water. Therefore, cool pavement works best as one part of a larger plan. When cities combine reflective surfaces, trees, and public cooling centers, they can protect more people from dangerous heat.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what cause-and-effect relationship does the phrase "As a result" clarify?

2. How does the phrase "In addition" help connect the ideas in paragraph 2?

3. Why is "Still" an effective transition in paragraph 2?

4. How do "For example" and "Therefore" serve different purposes in paragraph 3?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90-110 word explanatory paragraph about one action your school could take to make outdoor areas safer in hot weather. Use at least four transition words or phrases, including one that shows cause and effect and one that shows contrast. Underline the transitions.

ANSWER KEY

Heat Link Words

GRADE 7 · WHST.6-8.2c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each transition word or phrase in the passage. In the margin, label the relationship it shows: sequence, addition, cause and effect, contrast, example, or conclusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what cause-and-effect relationship does the phrase "As a result" clarify?	**Dark surfaces absorb and slowly release heat, so cities can stay warmer than nearby rural areas after sunset.**
2	How does the phrase "In addition" help connect the ideas in paragraph 2?	**It adds a second way that trees can lower street temperatures: water evaporating from leaves cools the air.**
3	Why is "Still" an effective transition in paragraph 2?	**It contrasts the fact that trees take years to grow with the idea that planners can use new trees along with other actions now.**
4	How do "For example" and "Therefore" serve different purposes in paragraph 3?	**"For example" introduces Los Angeles as a specific case. "Therefore" introduces the conclusion that cool pavement works best as part of a larger plan.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, our school could place a shade sail over the blacktop near the basketball hoops after lunch. Because the sail would block direct sunlight, students could wait for rides in a cooler space. In addition, the school could add a water fountain nearby so students can refill bottles during afternoon activities. However, a sail cannot cool every part of the campus. Therefore, teachers could also schedule outdoor activities earlier on very hot days. Together, these changes would reduce heat exposure while keeping recess, after-school events, and pickup time available for more students.

Accept labels that accurately describe each transition's relationship, even if students use similar terms such as result for cause and effect. For the paragraph, check for 90-110 words, at least four underlined transitions, and clear cause-and-effect and contrast relationships.