How Ideas Connect

Sort sentences by the way they organize information.

C.6.2.b "Introduce a topic, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast and cause/effect; include formatting..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPARE OR CONTRAST

This tells how two things are alike or different. Look for details about both things.

A violin has strings, while a drum has a stretched surface.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

This tells why something happened and what happened as a result.

A candle went out because someone blew on its flame.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle COMPARE or CAUSE to show how it organizes information.

1.	A turtle has a backbone, while a snail does not.	COMPARE	CAUSE
2.	A bicycle has pedals, while a kick scooter has a deck to stand on.	COMPARE	CAUSE
3.	The power went out, so the freezer stopped cooling.	COMPARE	CAUSE
4.	A pencil uses graphite, while a ballpoint pen uses ink.	COMPARE	CAUSE
5.	The library closed early because a pipe burst.	COMPARE	CAUSE
6.	The bread rose because yeast released gas into the dough.	COMPARE	CAUSE
7.	A red oak loses its leaves in fall, while a white pine keeps its needles.	COMPARE	CAUSE
8.	Water and oxygen reacted with the iron gate, causing it to rust.	COMPARE	CAUSE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Part 2: Pick two numbered items, one from each category, and explain how you knew where each belongs. Part 3: Write one new sentence that compares or contrasts two things and one new sentence that shows a cause and effect.

COMPARE _____

CAUSE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about one topic: compare or contrast two things in the first sentence, then show a cause and effect in the second.

ANSWER KEY

How Ideas Connect

GRADE 6 · C.6.2.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A turtle has a backbone, while a snail does not.	**COMPARE**	Contrasts a turtle and a snail by the presence of a backbone.
2	A bicycle has pedals, while a kick scooter has a deck to stand on.	**COMPARE**	Contrasts features of two ways to travel.
3	The power went out, so the freezer stopped cooling.	**CAUSE**	The power outage caused the freezer to stop cooling.
4	A pencil uses graphite, while a ballpoint pen uses ink.	**COMPARE**	Contrasts the materials the two writing tools use.
5	The library closed early because a pipe burst.	**CAUSE**	The burst pipe caused the early closing.
6	The bread rose because yeast released gas into the dough.	**CAUSE**	Gas released by yeast caused the dough to rise.
7	A red oak loses its leaves in fall, while a white pine keeps its needles.	**COMPARE**	Contrasts what happens to the trees' leaves or needles in fall.
8	Water and oxygen reacted with the iron gate, causing it to rust.	**CAUSE**	The reaction caused the gate to rust.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **COMPARE**: A mitten covers four fingers together, while a glove has separate spaces for each finger.
- **CAUSE**: The sidewalk became slippery because a puddle froze overnight.

Challenge: Tomato plants produce fleshy fruit, while basil plants are grown mainly for their leaves. Because the gardener forgot to water them for weeks, both plants wilted.

For Part 2, explanations should identify details about two things in a COMPARE item or name the reason and result in a CAUSE item. For example, item 2 contrasts pedals with a deck, and item 5 links a burst pipe to the library closing.