How Ideas Link

Sort the ways an author explains flood warnings.

RI.8.3 "Analyze how an author uses comparisons, analogies or categories to make connections among and distinctions between ideas over the course of a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONNECTS IDEAS

The author shows what two ideas share or uses a familiar idea to explain another. Look for a shared purpose, feature, or pattern.

A soccer team works like an orchestra: members play different parts toward a shared goal.

DISTINGUISHES IDEAS

The author shows how two ideas differ. Look for a difference in what they do, how they work, or when they are useful.

A fossil preserves traces of ancient life, while a diary records a person's daily experiences.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle CONNECT or CONTRAST for each numbered line; for Part 2, choose one line from each category and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1.	A river sensor is like a thermometer: each gives a number people can watch for change.	CONNECT CONTRAST
2.	A rain gauge measures rainfall, while a river sensor measures water height.	CONNECT CONTRAST
3.	A forecast estimates future flooding, but a sensor reports the river's current level.	CONNECT CONTRAST
4.	Both radar and rain gauges help track a storm's rainfall.	CONNECT CONTRAST
5.	A warning chain works like a relay race: each person passes the alert to someone else.	CONNECT CONTRAST
6.	Unlike a phone alert, a siren can reach people who have no phone.	CONNECT CONTRAST
7.	Like a practice drill, a flood map helps residents prepare before high water arrives.	CONNECT CONTRAST
8.	Both a siren and a phone alert warn residents that danger is near.	CONNECT CONTRAST

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

Write one new sentence that connects two ideas and one new sentence that distinguishes two ideas.

CONNECT

CONTRAST

CHALLENGE

Write three sentences about a new topic: connect two ideas in the first, distinguish them in the second, and explain in the third how both details help a reader understand the topic.

ANSWER KEY

How Ideas Link

GRADE 8 · RI.8.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A river sensor is like a thermometer: each gives a number people can watch for change.	**CONNECT**	The analogy links two tools that provide numbers people can track.
2	A rain gauge measures rainfall, while a river sensor measures water height.	**CONTRAST**	The tools measure different things.
3	A forecast estimates future flooding, but a sensor reports the river's current level.	**CONTRAST**	The author separates a prediction from a current measurement.
4	Both radar and rain gauges help track a storm's rainfall.	**CONNECT**	The author identifies a shared purpose.
5	A warning chain works like a relay race: each person passes the alert to someone else.	**CONNECT**	The analogy links the passing of an alert to the passing of a baton.
6	Unlike a phone alert, a siren can reach people who have no phone.	**CONTRAST**	The author identifies a difference in whom each warning can reach.
7	Like a practice drill, a flood map helps residents prepare before high water arrives.	**CONNECT**	The comparison links two ways to prepare ahead of time.
8	Both a siren and a phone alert warn residents that danger is near.	**CONNECT**	The author identifies a shared purpose despite an earlier difference.

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)

- **CONNECT**: Both a library and a museum preserve materials people can study.
- **CONTRAST**: A library lends books, while a museum usually displays objects for visitors to examine.

Challenge: Both bicycles and buses can help people travel without driving a car. Unlike a bicycle, a bus carries many riders at once. These details show that both are travel options, but they serve different group sizes.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 4 connects two tools through their shared purpose and item 3 contrasts a future estimate with a current reading. Accept other explanations that name the specific connection or difference in the chosen lines.