Sentence Smoothies

Spot sentences that flow smoothly.

5.LU.1.A "Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMBINED SENTENCE

A combined sentence joins closely related ideas. It often uses a joining word, such as and, because, when, or although.

The lantern glowed while the hikers crossed the bridge.

CHOPPY SENTENCES

Choppy sentences give closely related ideas in short, separate sentences. They can often be joined to make the writing flow better.

A comet appeared. It streaked across the sky.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle COMBINED or CHOPPY for each item, then choose two items and explain how their sentence forms helped you decide.

1.	The drummer tapped a beat, and the dancers began to move.	COMBINED CHOPPY
2.	The soup simmered. It filled the kitchen with a spicy smell.	COMBINED CHOPPY
3.	The squirrel dug. It buried an acorn.	COMBINED CHOPPY
4.	The captain checked the map before the boat left the dock.	COMBINED CHOPPY
5.	Jordan wore boots because the trail was muddy.	COMBINED CHOPPY
6.	The baby laughed when her brother made a silly face.	COMBINED CHOPPY
7.	Snow fell. Snow covered the playground.	COMBINED CHOPPY
8.	Although the cake looked small, it served twelve guests.	COMBINED CHOPPY

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 COMBINED sentence and one new CHOPPY pair of sentences.

COMBINED _____

CHOPPY _____

CHALLENGE

Write a new CHOPPY pair of sentences, then combine and expand it into one smooth sentence with one precise detail.

ANSWER KEY # Sentence Smoothies

GRADE 5 · 5.LU.1.A

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The drummer tapped a beat, and the dancers began to move.	**COMBINED**	Two related actions are joined with and.
2	The soup simmered. It filled the kitchen with a spicy smell.	**CHOPPY**	Two related ideas are written as separate short sentences.
3	The squirrel dug. It buried an acorn.	**CHOPPY**	The related actions could be joined into one sentence.
4	The captain checked the map before the boat left the dock.	**COMBINED**	The ideas are joined with before.
5	Jordan wore boots because the trail was muddy.	**COMBINED**	The reason is joined to the action with because.
6	The baby laughed when her brother made a silly face.	**COMBINED**	The ideas are joined with when.
7	Snow fell. Snow covered the playground.	**CHOPPY**	The related ideas are separate and repeat the subject.
8	Although the cake looked small, it served twelve guests.	**COMBINED**	The ideas are joined with although.

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)

- **COMBINED**: The parrot screeched as the window opened.
- **CHOPPY**: The candle flickered. The room grew dim.

Challenge: Choppy: The owl flew. It landed in a pine tree. Combined and expanded: The brown owl flew silently and landed in a tall pine tree.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept proof-it explanations that identify a joining word in a combined sentence or point out two short, related sentences in a choppy pair. Student-created answers may vary if they match the category and use correct punctuation.