Dialogue Detectives

Sort sentences by their dialogue punctuation.

4.LF.38.d "Use commas, apostrophes, and quotation marks correctly."

NAME _____ DATE _____

READY TO READ

A comma follows the speaker tag, which tells who speaks, and quotation marks surround the spoken words. The final punctuation goes inside the closing quotation mark.

Nora murmured, "Purple clouds drift slowly."

NEEDS A FIX

A sentence needs a fix if the comma, quotation marks, or final punctuation is missing or in the wrong place.

Tomas cheered "Otters swim fast!"

1 SORT

8 items

Circle READY or FIX for each sentence in Part 1, then choose two items in Part 2 and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	Mila said, "I found a smooth stone."	READY	FIX
2.	Owen asked, "Is the bus here?"	READY	FIX
3.	Lena said "My kite flew high."	READY	FIX
4.	Ben yelled, "Watch out!"	READY	FIX
5.	Ravi whispered, "The library is quiet.	READY	FIX
6.	Gia said, "The paint is dry".	READY	FIX
7.	Leo asked, "Can we plant seeds?"	READY	FIX
8.	Ada said, "My boots are wet."	READY	FIX

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 READY sentence and one new FIX sentence. Put the speaker tag first in both.

READY _____

FIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a READY sentence with the speaker tag first, a name with an apostrophe in the spoken words, and a question mark.

ANSWER KEY

Dialogue Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.38.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mila said, "I found a smooth stone."	**READY**	The comma follows the speaker tag, and the period is inside the quotation marks.
2	Owen asked, "Is the bus here?"	**READY**	The comma and quotation marks are placed correctly, and the question mark is inside the closing quotation mark.
3	Lena said "My kite flew high."	**FIX**	A comma is missing after the speaker tag, Lena said.
4	Ben yelled, "Watch out!"	**READY**	The comma follows the speaker tag, and the exclamation point is inside the quotation marks.
5	Ravi whispered, "The library is quiet.	**FIX**	The closing quotation mark is missing.
6	Gia said, "The paint is dry".	**FIX**	The period should be inside the closing quotation mark.
7	Leo asked, "Can we plant seeds?"	**READY**	The comma, quotation marks, and question mark are placed correctly.
8	Ada said, "My boots are wet."	**READY**	The comma follows the speaker tag, and the period is inside the quotation marks.

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)

- **READY**: Cora said, "We won the race."
- **FIX**: Hugo called "The parade starts now."

Challenge: Zoe asked, "Is Luca's jacket in the closet?"

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the punctuation mark and where it belongs. Part 3 FIX sentences should have a clear punctuation error in dialogue.