Punctuation Patrol

Part 2: Pick one CORRECT item and one EDIT item, then explain how you knew.

7.LL.18.a "Correct improper usage of commas, apostrophes, quotation marks, colons, and semicolons through peer editing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT AS WRITTEN

A semicolon can join two closely related complete thoughts. Each side could stand as its own sentence.

The lantern flickered; Mira lit a candle.

NEEDS AN EDIT

A comma alone cannot join two complete thoughts. The sentence needs a stronger break or a joining word.

The drummer paused, the crowd grew quiet.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle CORRECT or EDIT for each sentence from a classmate's draft.

1.	The exhibit opened late, the visitors waited outside.	CORRECT EDIT
2.	Nina checked the map; Omar marked the trail.	CORRECT EDIT
3.	The bell rang; the players left the court.	CORRECT EDIT
4.	The library closed early, the students returned their books.	CORRECT EDIT
5.	The printer jammed; our group changed its plan.	CORRECT EDIT
6.	Ravi found the key, his sister opened the gate.	CORRECT EDIT
7.	The soup cooled, the chef served the bread.	CORRECT EDIT
8.	The bus stopped; the passengers stepped onto the curb.	CORRECT EDIT

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 3: Write one new example with two complete thoughts joined correctly by a semicolon and one that needs an edit because it joins them with only a comma.

CORRECT _____

EDIT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one EDIT item and fix it in two ways: first with a semicolon, then with a comma and a joining word.

ANSWER KEY

Punctuation Patrol

GRADE 7 · 7.LL.18.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The exhibit opened late, the visitors waited outside.	**EDIT**	A comma alone joins two complete thoughts.
2	Nina checked the map; Omar marked the trail.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two related complete thoughts.
3	The bell rang; the players left the court.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two related complete thoughts.
4	The library closed early, the students returned their books.	**EDIT**	A comma alone joins two complete thoughts.
5	The printer jammed; our group changed its plan.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two related complete thoughts.
6	Ravi found the key, his sister opened the gate.	**EDIT**	A comma alone joins two complete thoughts.
7	The soup cooled, the chef served the bread.	**EDIT**	A comma alone joins two complete thoughts.
8	The bus stopped; the passengers stepped onto the curb.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two related complete thoughts.

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)

- **CORRECT**: The lights dimmed; the audience fell silent.
- **EDIT**: The dog barked, the baby woke up.

Challenge: The exhibit opened late; the visitors waited outside. The exhibit opened late, so the visitors waited outside.

For Part 2, look for an explanation that identifies two complete thoughts and tells whether the punctuation between them works. For the challenge, both revisions should preserve the meaning of the chosen item.