Sentence Join Detectives

Sort sentence joins, explain two choices, and write your own.

8.LL.20.c "Revise their own writing for correct mechanics with a focus on commas, apostrophes, quotation marks, colons, and semicolons."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT JOIN

A semicolon can join two related complete sentences. Check that each side could stand alone.

Owls hunt at night; mice hide in burrows.

NEEDS REVISION

A comma by itself cannot join two complete sentences. The join needs a different punctuation mark or a joining word.

My backpack ripped, its zipper broke.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or REVISE for each item, then choose two items and explain your choices by naming the mark and checking both sides.

1.	The curtain rose; the actors stepped onto the stage.	CORRECT	REVISE
2.	Rain soaked the field; the soccer game moved indoors.	CORRECT	REVISE
3.	Jada checked the map, her brother found the trail.	CORRECT	REVISE
4.	Nina finished her sketch; her friends admired it.	CORRECT	REVISE
5.	Our bus arrived late, the driver apologized.	CORRECT	REVISE
6.	The candle flickered, shadows danced across the wall.	CORRECT	REVISE
7.	The mechanic tightened the bolt; the engine ran smoothly.	CORRECT	REVISE
8.	Sam packed the cooler, his sister loaded the car.	CORRECT	REVISE

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 with a CORRECT join and one new sentence that belongs in REVISE.

CORRECT _____

REVISE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with three complete clauses: join two with a semicolon and join two with a comma plus *and*.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Join Detectives

GRADE 8 · 8.LL.20.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The curtain rose; the actors stepped onto the stage.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two complete sentences.
2	Rain soaked the field; the soccer game moved indoors.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two complete sentences.
3	Jada checked the map, her brother found the trail.	**REVISE**	A comma alone joins two complete sentences.
4	Nina finished her sketch; her friends admired it.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two complete sentences.
5	Our bus arrived late, the driver apologized.	**REVISE**	A comma alone joins two complete sentences.
6	The candle flickered, shadows danced across the wall.	**REVISE**	A comma alone joins two complete sentences.
7	The mechanic tightened the bolt; the engine ran smoothly.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two complete sentences.
8	Sam packed the cooler, his sister loaded the car.	**REVISE**	A comma alone joins two complete sentences.

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 lantern glowed; the campers gathered nearby.
- **REVISE**: The glass slipped, water spilled across the counter.

Challenge: The storm passed; the clouds thinned, and the stars appeared.

Items 1, 2, 4, and 7 are CORRECT. Items 3, 5, 6, and 8 need revision because a comma alone joins two complete sentences.