# Sentence Crossing

Decide when two complete thoughts are joined correctly.

**9-12.R6** "Employ conventions of grammar, mechanics, and usage in order to communicate effectively with a target audience."

NAME _____ DATE _____

### CORRECT JOIN

Two complete thoughts can be joined with a semicolon or with a comma and a joining word such as *but*, *and*, or *so*.

Owls hunt at dusk; bats emerge after sunset.

### COMMA SPLICE

A comma splice joins two complete thoughts with only a comma. A comma alone is not enough.

Owls hunt at dusk, bats emerge after sunset.

## 1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered item, circle JOINED or SPLICE; then choose two items and explain how you knew, naming the punctuation and checking whether each side is a complete thought.

**1.** The mural looks finished, we still need to paint its border. JOINED SPLICE

**2.** Our debate begins tomorrow, Maya has prepared her opening. JOINED SPLICE

**3.** The library closes soon; I can return my book today. JOINED SPLICE

**4.** Jalen tested the microphone, the audience heard every word. JOINED SPLICE

**5.** The poster is bright, but its message is hard to read. JOINED SPLICE

**6.** The bell rang, and everyone hurried inside. JOINED SPLICE

**7.** I wrote a headline, my editor suggested a stronger one. JOINED SPLICE

**8.** The lights dimmed; the play began. JOINED SPLICE

## 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 JOINED example and one new SPLICE example about an event you attended or watched.

**JOINED** _____

**SPLICE** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Choose one SPLICE item from Part 1 and fix it twice: once with a semicolon and once with a comma plus *but*, *and*, or *so*.

**ANSWER KEY** # Sentence Crossing

**GRADE 9 · 9-12.R6**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The mural looks finished, we still need to paint its border. | **SPLICE** | A comma alone separates two complete thoughts. |
| 2 | Our debate begins tomorrow, Maya has prepared her opening. | **SPLICE** | A comma alone separates two complete thoughts. |
| 3 | The library closes soon; I can return my book today. | **JOINED** | A semicolon correctly joins two complete thoughts. |
| 4 | Jalen tested the microphone, the audience heard every word. | **SPLICE** | A comma alone separates two complete thoughts. |
| 5 | The poster is bright, but its message is hard to read. | **JOINED** | A comma and *but* correctly join two complete thoughts. |
| 6 | The bell rang, and everyone hurried inside. | **JOINED** | A comma and *and* correctly join two complete thoughts. |
| 7 | I wrote a headline, my editor suggested a stronger one. | **SPLICE** | A comma alone separates two complete thoughts. |
| 8 | The lights dimmed; the play began. | **JOINED** | A semicolon correctly joins two 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)

- **JOINED**: The concert ended; the crowd asked for one more song.
- **SPLICE**: The concert ended, the crowd asked for one more song.

**Challenge:** The mural looks finished; we still need to paint its border. The mural looks finished, but we still need to paint its border.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify two complete thoughts and explain why the punctuation does or does not join them correctly. Part 3 examples should contain two complete thoughts.