Dialogue Detectives

Spot dialogue that is punctuated the right way.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.2c "Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT DIALOGUE

The spoken words are inside quotation marks. A comma separates the spoken words and the speaker tag in a statement.

"Wait for me," called Rosa.

NEEDS FIXING

A comma or quotation mark is missing or in the wrong place. The dialogue needs punctuation before it is correct.

Rosa called "Wait for me."

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, then circle CORRECT or FIX IT.

1.	"I packed my lunch," said Leo.	CORRECT FIX IT
2.	Ava said "The bus is here."	CORRECT FIX IT
3.	"We should hurry" said Omar.	CORRECT FIX IT
4.	Ms. Chen said, "Open to page ten."	CORRECT FIX IT
5.	My dog learned a trick, said Jada.	CORRECT FIX IT
6.	"I will water the plants," said Theo.	CORRECT FIX IT
7.	Grandpa said, "I baked muffins.	CORRECT FIX IT
8.	"It is almost noon," said Dad.	CORRECT FIX IT

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 CORRECT dialogue sentence and one new FIX IT dialogue sentence.

CORRECT _____

FIX IT _____

CHALLENGE

Fix this dialogue sentence by adding all needed commas and quotation marks: Ravi said We won the game.

ANSWER KEY

Dialogue Detectives

GRADE 3 · L.3.2c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	"I packed my lunch," said Leo.	**CORRECT**	Quotation marks surround the spoken words, and the comma comes before the closing quotation mark.
2	Ava said "The bus is here."	**FIX IT**	A comma is needed after said before the opening quotation mark.
3	"We should hurry" said Omar.	**FIX IT**	A comma is needed after hurry before the closing quotation mark.
4	Ms. Chen said, "Open to page ten."	**CORRECT**	The comma comes before the opening quotation mark, and the spoken words are in quotation marks.
5	My dog learned a trick, said Jada.	**FIX IT**	The spoken words need quotation marks.
6	"I will water the plants," said Theo.	**CORRECT**	Quotation marks surround the spoken words, and the comma is placed correctly.
7	Grandpa said, "I baked muffins.	**FIX IT**	The closing quotation mark is missing.
8	"It is almost noon," said Dad.	**CORRECT**	Quotation marks surround the spoken words, and the comma is placed correctly.

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**: "I found my gloves," said Mia.
- **FIX IT**: Mia said "I found my gloves."

Challenge: Ravi said, "We won the game."

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Correct Dialogue: 1, 4, 6, and 8. Items 2 and 3 are missing commas, item 5 is missing quotation marks, and item 7 is missing a closing quotation mark.