Comma Connection Check

Spot correct clause joins and comma splices.

ELA.12.C.3.1 "Follow the rules of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling appropriate to grade level."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT JOIN

A correct sentence does not join two complete thoughts with only a comma. Use a period, a semicolon, or a comma plus a coordinating conjunction.

The biologist logged each result; her assistant calibrated the microscope.

COMMA SPLICE

A comma splice happens when a comma alone joins two complete thoughts. Replace the comma or add a coordinating conjunction.

Rain flooded the courtyard, classes moved indoors.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or SPLICE for each sentence.

1.	The editor approved the final draft, and the printer started the run.	CORRECT SPLICE
2.	Several hikers reached the ridge; the trail continued beyond it.	CORRECT SPLICE
3.	The wind shifted suddenly, the sailors lowered the mainsail.	CORRECT SPLICE
4.	Maya submitted her portfolio before noon. The committee reviewed it that afternoon.	CORRECT SPLICE
5.	The server crashed overnight, technicians restored the database by dawn.	CORRECT SPLICE
6.	The lecture ended late, students missed the last bus.	CORRECT SPLICE
7.	The sculpture seemed fragile, but its steel frame held firm.	CORRECT SPLICE
8.	The verdict was announced, reporters rushed toward the courthouse.	CORRECT 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 CORRECT sentence with two complete thoughts and one new SPLICE sentence with two complete thoughts.

CORRECT _____

SPLICE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one SPLICE item and rewrite it two different correct ways: once with a semicolon and once with a comma plus a coordinating conjunction.

ANSWER KEY

Comma Connection Check

GRADE 12 · ELA.12.C.3.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The editor approved the final draft, and the printer started the run.	**CORRECT**	A comma plus the coordinating conjunction and joins two independent clauses.
2	Several hikers reached the ridge; the trail continued beyond it.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon correctly joins two independent clauses.
3	The wind shifted suddenly, the sailors lowered the mainsail.	**SPLICE**	A comma alone joins two independent clauses.
4	Maya submitted her portfolio before noon. The committee reviewed it that afternoon.	**CORRECT**	A period correctly separates two independent clauses.
5	The server crashed overnight, technicians restored the database by dawn.	**SPLICE**	A comma alone joins two independent clauses.
6	The lecture ended late, students missed the last bus.	**SPLICE**	A comma alone joins two independent clauses.
7	The sculpture seemed fragile, but its steel frame held firm.	**CORRECT**	A comma plus the coordinating conjunction but joins two independent clauses.
8	The verdict was announced, reporters rushed toward the courthouse.	**SPLICE**	A comma alone joins two independent clauses.

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 panel debated the proposal, yet no member changed a vote.
- **SPLICE**: The kiln cooled overnight, the ceramic tiles were removed at sunrise.

Challenge: The wind shifted suddenly; the sailors lowered the mainsail. The wind shifted suddenly, so the sailors lowered the mainsail.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept equivalent explanations that identify two independent clauses and the punctuation or conjunction joining them. For Part 3, verify that each student example contains two complete thoughts and matches its selected category.