Comma Connection Check

Spot sentences with comma splices.

ELA.8.C.3.1 "Follow the rules of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling appropriate to grade level."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT

A correctly punctuated sentence does not use only a comma to join two complete thoughts. It may use a period, a semicolon, or a comma plus a coordinating conjunction when needed.

At sunrise, the gardener watered the roses.

COMMA SPLICE

A comma splice happens when a writer uses only a comma to join two complete sentences. The comma needs help from a coordinating conjunction, a semicolon, or a period.

The train arrived late, passengers missed the connection.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each item, then circle CORRECT or SPLICE.

1. The hikers reached the cabin before dark. CORRECT SPLICE

2. The rain stopped, and the players returned to the field. CORRECT SPLICE

3. My sister practices violin every evening, she hopes to join the orchestra. CORRECT SPLICE

4. Since the gate was locked, we used the side entrance. CORRECT SPLICE

5. The museum closed at five, we arrived at six. CORRECT SPLICE

6. The baby slept peacefully, the dog barked outside. CORRECT SPLICE

7. The engineer tested the bridge; the safety team recorded the results. CORRECT SPLICE

8. The candles flickered, the room grew quiet. 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 sentence for each category.

CORRECT _____

SPLICE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one comma splice from Part 1 and rewrite it correctly in two different ways.

ANSWER KEY

Comma Connection Check

GRADE 8 · ELA.8.C.3.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hikers reached the cabin before dark.	**CORRECT**	This is one complete sentence with correct punctuation.
2	The rain stopped, and the players returned to the field.	**CORRECT**	A comma plus the coordinating conjunction and correctly joins two independent clauses.
3	My sister practices violin every evening, she hopes to join the orchestra.	**SPLICE**	Two independent clauses are joined by only a comma.
4	Since the gate was locked, we used the side entrance.	**CORRECT**	The introductory dependent clause is followed correctly by a comma.
5	The museum closed at five, we arrived at six.	**SPLICE**	Two independent clauses are joined by only a comma.
6	The baby slept peacefully, the dog barked outside.	**SPLICE**	Two independent clauses are joined by only a comma.
7	The engineer tested the bridge; the safety team recorded the results.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon correctly joins two closely related independent clauses.
8	The candles flickered, the room grew quiet.	**SPLICE**	Two independent clauses are joined by only a comma.

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 recipe was simple, but the sauce needed time.
- **SPLICE**: The bell rang, students packed their bags.

Challenge: Period: The museum closed at five. We arrived at six. Semicolon: The museum closed at five; we arrived at six.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept other correct explanations that identify whether a comma joins two independent clauses by itself. For Part 3, check that the CORRECT example has standard punctuation and the SPLICE example contains two independent clauses joined only by a comma.