Detail Detectives

Sort sentences by how fully they develop an idea.

11.L.GC.2.d "Expand and enrich ideas and information, incorporating details and descriptions to achieve specific purposes and facilitate engagement. (C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

EXPANDED SENTENCE

An expanded sentence adds specific details or descriptions that help a reader picture, understand, or feel the idea.

The violinist bowed slowly beneath the theater's blue lights.

BASIC SENTENCE

A basic sentence states an idea but gives few or no details to develop it.

The musician performed.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, then circle EXPANDED or BASIC.

1.	At dawn, the ferry horn echoed across the foggy harbor.	EXPANDED BASIC
2.	The meeting ended.	EXPANDED BASIC
3.	Birds flew.	EXPANDED BASIC
4.	After the final whistle, Maya gripped the muddy trophy with both hands.	EXPANDED BASIC
5.	The lab smelled sharply of vinegar and warm metal.	EXPANDED BASIC
6.	During the blackout, phone screens flickered like tiny lanterns along the stairwell.	EXPANDED BASIC
7.	The town changed.	EXPANDED BASIC
8.	With a cracked map on his knee, Omar traced a route through the mountain pass.	EXPANDED BASIC

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 EXPANDED sentence and one new BASIC sentence. Use different topics from the sentences above.

EXPANDED _____

BASIC _____

CHALLENGE

Revise this BASIC sentence into one EXPANDED sentence that creates suspense: "Someone opened the door."

ANSWER KEY

Detail Detectives

GRADE 11 · 11.L.GC.2.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	At dawn, the ferry horn echoed across the foggy harbor.	**EXPANDED**	Specific time, sound, and setting details develop the scene.
2	The meeting ended.	**BASIC**	It states what happened without developing the idea.
3	Birds flew.	**BASIC**	It gives only a simple action with no descriptive details.
4	After the final whistle, Maya gripped the muddy trophy with both hands.	**EXPANDED**	Time, action, and sensory details make the moment clear.
5	The lab smelled sharply of vinegar and warm metal.	**EXPANDED**	Sensory descriptions enrich the setting.
6	During the blackout, phone screens flickered like tiny lanterns along the stairwell.	**EXPANDED**	The sentence adds time, setting, imagery, and description.
7	The town changed.	**BASIC**	It makes a general claim without details about the change.
8	With a cracked map on his knee, Omar traced a route through the mountain pass.	**EXPANDED**	Descriptive details show the action and setting.

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)

- **EXPANDED**: Beneath the stadium seats, vendors shouted over the roar of the crowd.
- **BASIC**: The audience waited.

Challenge: At the end of the silent hallway, someone slowly opened the swollen wooden door, and cold air spilled into the room.

Items 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8 are EXPANDED. Items 2, 3, and 7 are BASIC. For Part 3, accept original sentences that clearly match the category definitions.