

Details That Matter

Sort sentences by how fully they develop an idea.

12.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 concrete facts, sensory description, or precise action. It helps a reader picture the idea or understand why it matters.

During the overnight train ride, Jamal recorded each rattling turn in his notebook.

BARE SENTENCE

A bare sentence gives only a general idea. It leaves the reader without details that could clarify or engage.

Jamal traveled.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle EXPANDED or BARE for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which details, or lack of details, led you to each choice.

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | At dawn, the frost-covered field glittered beside the silent barn. | ☐ EXPANDED | ☐ BARE |
| 2. | In the final quarter, the proposal lost support after its projected costs doubled. | ☐ EXPANDED | ☐ BARE |
| 3. | The musician performed well. | ☐ EXPANDED | ☐ BARE |
| 4. | With a cracked bow and steady focus, the violinist carried the slow melody through the crowded hall. | ☐ EXPANDED | ☐ BARE |
| 5. | The river changed. | ☐ EXPANDED | ☐ BARE |
| 6. | The museum opened. | ☐ EXPANDED | ☐ BARE |
| 7. | After three days of rain, the muddy river rose over the footbridge and swept branches downstream. | ☐ EXPANDED | ☐ BARE |
| 8. | On Saturday, the neighborhood museum opened its new astronomy wing, inviting visitors to handle meteorite samples. | ☐ EXPANDED | ☐ BARE |

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 original EXPANDED sentence and one original BARE sentence about the same topic.

EXPANDED

BARE

CHALLENGE

Choose a BARE idea of your own and turn it into a two-sentence invitation for a specific audience, adding at least three precise details that make the activity appealing.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	At dawn, the frost-covered field glittered beside the silent barn.	EXPANDED	Specific time, visual description, and setting details develop the image.
2	In the final quarter, the proposal lost support after its projected costs doubled.	EXPANDED	The sentence explains when support changed and gives a specific cause.
3	The musician performed well.	BARE	The evaluation is general and gives no evidence, action, or description.
4	With a cracked bow and steady focus, the violinist carried the slow melody through the crowded hall.	EXPANDED	Concrete details about the performer, instrument, music, and setting engage the reader.
5	The river changed.	BARE	The sentence does not explain what changed, when, or why.
6	The museum opened.	BARE	The sentence states an event without details about time, place, or significance.
7	After three days of rain, the muddy river rose over the footbridge and swept branches downstream.	EXPANDED	Time, cause, descriptive language, and precise actions enrich the information.
8	On Saturday, the neighborhood museum opened its new astronomy wing, inviting visitors to handle meteorite samples.	EXPANDED	Specific time, place, topic, and visitor activity make the event clear and engaging.

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:** During the blackout, the bakery handed warm loaves to neighbors waiting beneath umbrellas.
- **BARE:** The bakery helped people.

Challenge: First-year volunteers, join the Saturday creek cleanup at 9:00 a.m. behind the stadium. We will provide gloves, maps, and hot cocoa after we collect litter along the willow-lined bank.

Accept expanded sentences that add relevant, concrete details or descriptions for a clear purpose. Accept bare sentences that state a general idea without enough information to help a reader picture, understand, or care about it.