

Thought Detective Sort

Find the groups of words that tell whole ideas.

2.L.GC.2 "Syntax: Recognize and compose coherent sentences that express complete thoughts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence tells a whole idea. It tells who or what and what happens.

Birds chirp.

NEEDS MORE WORDS

This group of words does not tell a whole idea. Add words to make the idea complete.

Beside tall mountains.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle COMPLETE or NOT YET for each group of words, then for Part 2, choose two numbers and tell how you knew each choice.

1. The baby laughs.

COMPLETE

NOT YET

2. My friends build a fort.

COMPLETE

NOT YET

3. In the dark cave.

COMPLETE

NOT YET

4. Dad waters the plants.

COMPLETE

NOT YET

5. After school today.

COMPLETE

NOT YET

6. The shiny red kite.

COMPLETE

NOT YET

7. We share our crayons.

COMPLETE

NOT YET

8. A fox runs quickly.

COMPLETE

NOT YET

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 COMPLETE sentence and one new NOT YET group of words.

COMPLETE _____

NOT YET _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one NOT YET item from Part 1. Add words to make it a COMPLETE sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The baby laughs.	COMPLETE	It tells who, the baby, and what happens, laughs.
2	My friends build a fort.	COMPLETE	It tells a whole idea.
3	In the dark cave.	NOT YET	It tells where, but not who or what happens.
4	Dad waters the plants.	COMPLETE	It tells who and what happens.
5	After school today.	NOT YET	It tells when, but not a whole idea.
6	The shiny red kite.	NOT YET	It names something but does not tell what happens.
7	We share our crayons.	COMPLETE	It tells who and what happens.
8	A fox runs quickly.	COMPLETE	It tells a whole idea.

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)

- **COMPLETE:** The rabbit hops.
- **NOT YET:** Near the old barn.

Challenge: After school today, I will read a book.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name a whole idea or explain what is missing. Answers to Part 3 and the challenge will vary, as long as each COMPLETE response expresses a whole thought.