

Hyphen Line Detectives

Decide which word breaks are right.

3.L.GC.1.26 "Mechanics: Use hyphens to divide words at line breaks. (Master)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT BREAK

A word split at the end of a line needs a hyphen after the first part. The split should be between syllables.

The win- dow was open.

WRONG BREAK

A break is wrong if the hyphen is missing or if it splits a word in the wrong place.

The kite flew ab- ove us.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each line break, then circle CORRECT or WRONG.

1. The puppy was hap- py to see me.

CORRECT

WRONG

2. We saw a rain- bow after school.

CORRECT

WRONG

3. The child felt happ- y after lunch.

CORRECT

WRONG

4. My sister read a sto- ry at bedtime.

CORRECT

WRONG

5. The small bird sat in a ne st.

CORRECT

WRONG

6. The fox ran acr- oss the field.

CORRECT

WRONG

7. Dad packed a lunch- box for me.

CORRECT

WRONG

8. The baby took a nap- kin to the table.

CORRECT

WRONG

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

Part 2: Pick two item numbers. For each one, explain how the hyphen and word split show it is CORRECT or WRONG. Part 3: Write one new line-break example for each category.

CORRECT

WRONG

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so the word breaks correctly: The cat slept bes- ide the chair.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The puppy was hap- py to see me.	CORRECT	The hyphen is at the line end, and hap-py is a correct syllable break.
2	We saw a rain- bow after school.	CORRECT	The hyphen is at the line end, and rain-bow is a correct word break.
3	The child felt happ- y after lunch.	WRONG	Happ-y does not split the word between syllables.
4	My sister read a sto- ry at bedtime.	CORRECT	The hyphen is at the line end, and sto-ry is a correct syllable break.
5	The small bird sat in a ne st.	WRONG	The word nest is split between lines, but it has no hyphen.
6	The fox ran acr- oss the field.	WRONG	Acr-oss does not split the word between syllables.
7	Dad packed a lunch- box for me.	CORRECT	The hyphen is at the line end, and lunch-box is a correct word break.
8	The baby took a nap- kin to the table.	CORRECT	The hyphen is at the line end, and nap-kin is a correct syllable break.

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 farmer fed a chick- en.
- **WRONG:** The dog wore a col lar.

Challenge: The cat slept be- side the chair.

For Part 2, students should name the hyphen at the end of the first line and whether the split is between syllables. Part 3 answers may vary if each example clearly shows a correct or incorrect word break.