Dialogue Detectives

Spot dialogue that is ready to read.

3.L.GC.1.30 "Mechanics: Recognize and use conventional capitalization, quotation marks, and commas to indicate exact words and dialogue. (Continue)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT DIALOGUE

The speaker's exact words are inside quotation marks. The dialogue has capital letters and punctuation in the right places.

Mr. Chen said, "The garden is wet."

NEEDS FIXING

Something is missing or incorrect in the dialogue. Check the capital letter, quotation marks, and comma.

"the drums are loud," Tia said.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or FIX for each sentence, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1. "Please feed the fish," Dad said. CORRECT FIX
2. "I baked bread" Nora said. CORRECT FIX
3. "my backpack is heavy," Sam said. CORRECT FIX
4. Ava said, "The kite is high." CORRECT FIX
5. "Watch the puppy," Omar said. CORRECT FIX
6. "we need pencils," Ms. Reed said. CORRECT FIX
7. "The soup smells good," Grandma said. CORRECT FIX
8. Eli said "It is time for lunch." CORRECT FIX

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 CORRECT dialogue sentence and one dialogue sentence that needs a FIX.

CORRECT _____

FIX _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence with correct capitalization and dialogue punctuation: “please bring crayons” Kai said.

ANSWER KEY

Dialogue Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.L.GC.1.30

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	“Please feed the fish,” Dad said.	**CORRECT**	The exact words are in quotation marks, begin with a capital letter, and use a comma before the speaker tag.
2	“I baked bread” Nora said.	**FIX**	It needs a comma after bread and a period after said.
3	“my backpack is heavy,” Sam said.	**FIX**	The first word inside the quotation marks should begin with a capital letter.
4	Ava said, “The kite is high.”	**CORRECT**	The comma comes before the opening quotation marks, and Ava's exact words are correctly capitalized and punctuated.
5	“Watch the puppy,” Omar said.	**CORRECT**	The dialogue is capitalized, inside quotation marks, and has a comma before the speaker tag.
6	“we need pencils,” Ms. Reed said.	**FIX**	The first word of the dialogue should be capitalized.
7	“The soup smells good,” Grandma said.	**CORRECT**	The dialogue has correct capitalization, quotation marks, and a comma before the speaker tag.
8	Eli said “It is time for lunch.”	**FIX**	It needs a comma after said before the opening quotation marks.

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**: “Please close the gate,” Jada said.
- **FIX**: “the stars are bright,” Leo said.

Challenge: “Please bring crayons,” Kai said.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the capital letter, quotation marks, comma, or ending punctuation. For Part 3, student-created FIX sentences may have any clear dialogue capitalization or punctuation error.