Dialogue Detectives

Sort sentences that use dialogue marks correctly.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

READY TO READ

A sentence is READY when the speaker's exact words begin with a capital letter, are inside quotation marks, and use commas or end marks in the right places.

Zora shouted, "Bring helmets."

NEEDS A FIX

A sentence needs a FIX when a capital letter, quotation mark, comma, or end mark is missing or in the wrong place.

zora shouted "Bring helmets."

1 SORT

8 items

Circle READY or FIX for each sentence, then choose two items and explain what makes each one READY or in need of a FIX.

1.	"I found my mitten," Leo said.	READY FIX
2.	sara whispered, "Close the gate."	READY FIX
3.	"Can we paint later"? asked Dad.	READY FIX
4.	Nia asked, "Where is my notebook?"	READY FIX
5.	"Wait for me!" called Ben.	READY FIX
6.	"The soup is hot," Mom said.	READY FIX
7.	Omar said, "I packed lunch".	READY FIX
8.	"Do not splash," Priya said.	READY 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 READY dialogue sentence and one new dialogue sentence that needs a FIX.

READY _____

FIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-line dialogue between two speakers. Put each speaker on a new line and use capital letters, quotation marks, commas, and end marks correctly.

ANSWER KEY

Dialogue Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.L.GC.1.30

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	"I found my mitten," Leo said.	**READY**	The exact words are capitalized, enclosed in quotation marks, and followed by a comma before the dialogue tag.
2	sara whispered, "Close the gate."	**FIX**	The speaker's name, Sara, needs a capital letter.
3	"Can we paint later"? asked Dad.	**FIX**	The question mark belongs inside the closing quotation mark, and asked should be lowercase after the quoted question.
4	Nia asked, "Where is my notebook?"	**READY**	The dialogue begins with a capital letter and uses quotation marks and a question mark correctly.
5	"Wait for me!" called Ben.	**READY**	The exact words have a capital letter, quotation marks, and the exclamation mark inside the closing quotation mark.
6	"The soup is hot," Mom said.	**READY**	The comma is inside the quotation marks before the dialogue tag.
7	Omar said, "I packed lunch".	**FIX**	The period belongs inside the closing quotation mark.
8	"Do not splash," Priya said.	**READY**	The exact words are capitalized, enclosed in quotation marks, and followed by a comma before the dialogue tag.

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)

- **READY**: "Please turn down the music," Ava said.
- **FIX**: "please turn down the music" Ava said.

Challenge: "Could you carry this box?" Elena asked. "Yes, I can help," Marcus replied.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept any two items if the student correctly names a capitalization, quotation mark, comma, or end-mark detail. For Part 3, accept varied responses that clearly match the selected category.