

List Mark Match

Choose commas or semicolons for each list.

5.L.GC.1.48 “Mechanics: Use semicolons to separate items in a series or list when at least one of the items already contains commas. (Introduce)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMMAS ARE ENOUGH

Use commas between list items when the items do not already have commas inside them.

The hamster ate seeds, carrots, and peas.

SEMICOLONS NEEDED

Use semicolons between list items when one or more items already contain commas. Semicolons make the list easy to read.

Our team visited Flagstaff, Arizona; Topeka, Kansas; and Helena, Montana.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each list, circle the punctuation that belongs in its blanks, then pick two items and explain how you knew.

1. Stops: Bend, Oregon ____ Mesa, Arizona ____ Flint, Michigan

COMMASSEMICOLONS
2. Card destinations: Eugene, Oregon ____ Lincoln, Nebraska ____ Tampa, Florida

COMMASSEMICOLONS
3. Paint choices: red ____ blue ____ green ____ yellow

COMMASSEMICOLONS
4. Exhibit locations: Cairo, Egypt ____ Lima, Peru ____ Accra, Ghana

COMMASSEMICOLONS
5. Recipe ingredients: flour ____ sugar ____ eggs ____ butter

COMMASSEMICOLONS
6. Relay gear: water ____ a towel ____ sneakers

COMMASSEMICOLONS
7. Tour cities: Oslo, Norway ____ Rabat, Morocco ____ Suva, Fiji

COMMASSEMICOLONS
8. Festival guests: Kyoto, Japan ____ Split, Croatia ____ Cusco, Peru

COMMASSEMICOLONS

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 list that uses COMMAS and one new list that uses SEMICOLONS.

COMMAS _____

SEMICOLONS _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with four main list items that each contain a comma, then use semicolons to separate the main items.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Stops: Bend, Oregon ____ Mesa, Arizona ____ Flint, Michigan	SEMICOLONS	Each main list item is a city and state, so each item already has a comma.
2	Card destinations: Eugene, Oregon ____ Lincoln, Nebraska ____ Tampa, Florida	SEMICOLONS	Each main list item contains a city and state with a comma.
3	Paint choices: red ____ blue ____ green ____ yellow	COMMAS	The list items are single color words with no commas inside them.
4	Exhibit locations: Cairo, Egypt ____ Lima, Peru ____ Accra, Ghana	SEMICOLONS	Each location includes a city and country separated by a comma.
5	Recipe ingredients: flour ____ sugar ____ eggs ____ butter	COMMAS	The ingredients do not contain commas inside the list items.
6	Relay gear: water ____ a towel ____ sneakers	COMMAS	The list items do not already have commas.
7	Tour cities: Oslo, Norway ____ Rabat, Morocco ____ Suva, Fiji	SEMICOLONS	Each main item is a city and country pair with a comma.
8	Festival guests: Kyoto, Japan ____ Split, Croatia ____ Cusco, Peru	SEMICOLONS	Each main list item already contains a comma.

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)

- **COMMAS:** The puppy chased balls, leaves, and bubbles.
- **SEMICOLONS:** The contest winners were from Fargo, North Dakota; Athens, Georgia; and El Paso, Texas.

Challenge: The camp counselors came from Erie, Pennsylvania; Dothan, Alabama; Yakima, Washington; and Laramie, Wyoming.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 use SEMICOLONS. Items 3, 5, and 6 use COMMAS. In Part 2, students should identify whether the main list items already contain commas.