Extra Info Detectives

Spot sentences that set off extra information.

6.L.GC.1.49 "Mechanics: Use commas, parentheses, and dashes to set off nonessential words, phrases, or clauses. (Introduce)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT

Extra information can be removed, and the main sentence still makes sense. Put commas, parentheses, or dashes on both sides of the extra information.

The bakery, known for warm bread, opens early.

NEEDS FIXING

The sentence has extra information, but punctuation is missing or does not appear on both sides. It needs a punctuation change.

The bakery known for warm bread opens early.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle CORRECT or FIXING, then choose two items and explain how the punctuation does or does not set off extra information.

1.	The science fair, held in April, filled the gym.	CORRECT FIXING
2.	Maya's brother (a firefighter) visits our class.	CORRECT FIXING
3.	The old bridge - built in 1920 carries cars across the river.	CORRECT FIXING
4.	Our principal, Ms. Ortiz, announced the schedule.	CORRECT FIXING
5.	The library, a quiet place to study is near the park.	CORRECT FIXING
6.	Jordan's bicycle - a gift from his uncle - needs new tires.	CORRECT FIXING
7.	The band (after practicing for weeks played at lunch.	CORRECT FIXING
8.	The parade route, lined with flags, passed our school.	CORRECT FIXING

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 sentence with extra information set off by punctuation. Then write one new FIXING sentence that has extra information but needs punctuation.

CORRECT _____

FIXING _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence using parentheses or dashes to set off the extra information: The aquarium open until nine welcomed families. Then write the main sentence after you remove the extra information.

ANSWER KEY

Extra Info Detectives

GRADE 6 · 6.L.GC.1.49

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The science fair, held in April, filled the gym.	**CORRECT**	The extra phrase “held in April” has commas on both sides.
2	Maya's brother (a firefighter) visits our class.	**CORRECT**	The extra information “a firefighter” is enclosed in parentheses.
3	The old bridge - built in 1920 carries cars across the river.	**FIXING**	The extra phrase begins with a dash but has no closing dash.
4	Our principal, Ms. Ortiz, announced the schedule.	**CORRECT**	The name is extra information set off by commas.
5	The library, a quiet place to study is near the park.	**FIXING**	The extra phrase needs a second comma after “study.”
6	Jordan's bicycle - a gift from his uncle - needs new tires.	**CORRECT**	The extra information is set off by a dash on each side.
7	The band (after practicing for weeks played at lunch.	**FIXING**	The extra phrase has an opening parenthesis but no closing parenthesis.
8	The parade route, lined with flags, passed our school.	**CORRECT**	The extra phrase “lined with flags” has commas on both sides.

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 campers, tired after the hike, rested by the fire.
- **FIXING**: The moon a bright circle rose above the trees.

Challenge: The aquarium (open until nine) welcomed families. The aquarium welcomed families.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the extra information and tell whether punctuation appears on both sides. For the challenge, accept correctly placed parentheses or dashes and the main sentence with the extra phrase removed.