Semicolon Detectives

Find the semicolons that work.

6.L.GC.1.52 "Mechanics: Use semicolons, with or without a conjunctive adverb, to form compound and compound-complex sentences. (Introduce)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT SEMICOLON

A semicolon can join two complete sentences that have closely connected ideas. When a conjunctive adverb follows, use a comma after it.

The lantern went out; therefore, we used candles.

NEEDS A FIX

A semicolon cannot join a complete sentence to a fragment. Both sides of the semicolon must be complete sentences.

Although the bell rang; the students remained seated.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or FIX for each sentence; then choose two items and explain why each belongs in its category.

1.	The parade ended; however, many people stayed downtown.	CORRECT FIX
2.	After the movie; we discussed the ending.	CORRECT FIX
3.	Because the lake was frozen; we canceled the trip.	CORRECT FIX
4.	The trail was steep; we reached the summit before noon.	CORRECT FIX
5.	Lena practiced daily; therefore, she improved quickly.	CORRECT FIX
6.	The kitten slept; under the chair.	CORRECT FIX
7.	Our bus was late; we still arrived before the first bell.	CORRECT FIX
8.	The recipe looked simple; the sauce took an hour to make.	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 sentence with a correct semicolon and one new sentence that needs a semicolon fix.

CORRECT _____

FIX _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one FIX sentence and rewrite it as a correct compound-complex sentence that uses a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb.

ANSWER KEY # Semicolon Detectives

GRADE 6 · 6.L.GC.1.52

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The parade ended; however, many people stayed downtown.	**CORRECT**	Both sides are complete sentences, and however is followed by a comma.
2	After the movie; we discussed the ending.	**FIX**	After the movie is a fragment, not a complete sentence.
3	Because the lake was frozen; we canceled the trip.	**FIX**	Because the lake was frozen is a dependent clause, not a complete sentence.
4	The trail was steep; we reached the summit before noon.	**CORRECT**	Both sides are complete sentences with closely connected ideas.
5	Lena practiced daily; therefore, she improved quickly.	**CORRECT**	Both sides are complete sentences, and therefore is followed by a comma.
6	The kitten slept; under the chair.	**FIX**	Under the chair is a phrase, not a complete sentence.
7	Our bus was late; we still arrived before the first bell.	**CORRECT**	Both sides are complete sentences with closely connected ideas.
8	The recipe looked simple; the sauce took an hour to make.	**CORRECT**	Both sides are complete sentences with closely connected ideas.

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 snow melted; consequently, the sidewalks became wet.
- **FIX**: While the wind blew; the flags snapped.

Challenge: After the movie ended, we discussed the ending; meanwhile, the ushers cleaned the theater.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.