

Join It Right

Spot commas that connect ideas clearly.

8.L.GC.2 "Syntax: Apply understanding of syntax to comprehend, analyze, condense, and combine ideas and information, enhancing clarity, style, and meaning."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT JOIN

A comma followed by a coordinating conjunction, such as and, but, or so, can join two complete sentences.

The lantern flickered, but the hallway stayed bright.

COMMA SPLICE

A comma splice happens when a comma alone joins two complete sentences.

My cousin paints murals, her studio opens at noon.

1 SORT 8 items

For each item, circle the category, then choose two items and explain whether a conjunction correctly joins two complete sentences or a comma alone creates a splice.

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The hikers packed water, and they checked the map. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ SPLICE |
| 2. Rina wanted a quieter seat, so she moved near the window. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ SPLICE |
| 3. The bell rang, students rushed into the gym. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ SPLICE |
| 4. The mechanic tightened the chain, but the bicycle still rattled. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ SPLICE |
| 5. The forecast promised snow, the roads remained clear. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ SPLICE |
| 6. Omar studied the diagram, he solved the puzzle quickly. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ SPLICE |
| 7. The orchestra tuned its instruments, and the audience took their seats. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ SPLICE |
| 8. The seedlings need sunlight, their leaves have turned pale. | ☐ CORRECT | ☐ SPLICE |

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 example and one new SPLICE example.

CORRECT _____

SPLICE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your SPLICE example as a CORRECT sentence by adding a coordinating conjunction after the comma.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hikers packed water, and they checked the map.	CORRECT	A comma and the conjunction and join two complete sentences.
2	Rina wanted a quieter seat, so she moved near the window.	CORRECT	A comma and the conjunction so join two complete sentences.
3	The bell rang, students rushed into the gym.	SPLICE	A comma alone joins two complete sentences.
4	The mechanic tightened the chain, but the bicycle still rattled.	CORRECT	A comma and the conjunction but join two complete sentences.
5	The forecast promised snow, the roads remained clear.	SPLICE	A comma alone joins two complete sentences.
6	Omar studied the diagram, he solved the puzzle quickly.	SPLICE	A comma alone joins two complete sentences.
7	The orchestra tuned its instruments, and the audience took their seats.	CORRECT	A comma and the conjunction and join two complete sentences.
8	The seedlings need sunlight, their leaves have turned pale.	SPLICE	A comma alone joins two complete sentences.

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 referee blew the whistle, and the players stopped moving.
- **SPLICE:** The aquarium closed early, visitors waited outside.

Challenge: The aquarium closed early, so visitors waited outside.

Items 1, 2, 4, and 7 are CORRECT. Items 3, 5, 6, and 8 are SPLICE because each comma alone joins two complete sentences.