# 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.

**ANSWER KEY** # Join It Right

**GRADE 8 · 8.L.GC.2**

## 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.