

Detail Detective Sort

Notice how details make a sentence clearer and more engaging.

9.L.GC.2.d "Expand and enrich ideas and information, incorporating details and descriptions to achieve specific purposes or facilitate engagement. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

DETAILED SENTENCE

A detailed sentence adds specific information or description. It helps the reader picture what is happening.

After lunch, the sweet smell of cinnamon drifted from the bakery door.

GENERAL SENTENCE

A general sentence gives only a basic idea. It does not add enough information for the reader to picture the scene clearly.

The train arrived.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle DETAILED or GENERAL for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which details, or lack of details, helped you decide.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The exhausted hikers dragged their muddy boots along the rocky trail. | ☐ DETAILED | ☐ GENERAL |
| 2. The hikers walked. | ☐ DETAILED | ☐ GENERAL |
| 3. A bird sang. | ☐ DETAILED | ☐ GENERAL |
| 4. At dawn, a red-tailed hawk circled silently above the pine trees. | ☐ DETAILED | ☐ GENERAL |
| 5. The old radiator clanged loudly through the freezing night. | ☐ DETAILED | ☐ GENERAL |
| 6. The room changed. | ☐ DETAILED | ☐ GENERAL |
| 7. During the final seconds, Maya slammed the blue button and the crowd erupted. | ☐ DETAILED | ☐ GENERAL |
| 8. The dog barked. | ☐ DETAILED | ☐ GENERAL |

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 DETAILED sentence and one new GENERAL sentence about any topic.

DETAILED _____

GENERAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write one detailed sentence that creates a tense mood and includes at least two precise details.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The exhausted hikers dragged their muddy boots along the rocky trail.	DETAILED	Specific descriptions of the hikers, boots, and trail create a clear picture.
2	The hikers walked.	GENERAL	It gives a basic action without descriptive details.
3	A bird sang.	GENERAL	It names an action but does not describe the bird, sound, or setting.
4	At dawn, a red-tailed hawk circled silently above the pine trees.	DETAILED	Time, type of bird, action, and setting add clear details.
5	The old radiator clanged loudly through the freezing night.	DETAILED	Descriptive words create sound and temperature details.
6	The room changed.	GENERAL	It does not explain how the room changed.
7	During the final seconds, Maya slammed the blue button and the crowd erupted.	DETAILED	The timing, action, object, and reaction make the event vivid.
8	The dog barked.	GENERAL	It gives only a basic action.

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)

- **DETAILED:** Rain tapped against the cracked window while yellow streetlights flickered outside.
- **GENERAL:** It rained.

Challenge: In the dark hallway, the broken clock ticked beside a door that creaked open.

For Part 2, students should identify a specific word, phrase, or missing detail that supports each choice. Accept varied Part 3 responses when the detailed sentence includes clear, relevant description and the general sentence remains basic.