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.

ANSWER KEY

Detail Detective Sort

GRADE 9 · 9.L.GC.2.d

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.