Comma List Detectives

Find the commas in lists of three.

2.W.8.b.III "Using commas in greetings and closings of letters, dates, and to separate items in a series."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMMAS ARE RIGHT

In a list of three things, put a comma after the first thing and after the second thing.

frogs, turtles, and ducks

COMMAS ARE MISSING

This list has three things, but it needs commas to separate them.

boots hats and scarves

1 SORT

8 items

For each list, circle RIGHT or MISSING, then pick one list of each kind and explain how you knew.

1. pencils, crayons, and markers — RIGHT / MISSING
2. peaches, grapes, and melons — RIGHT / MISSING
3. kites drums and balls — RIGHT / MISSING
4. cups, plates, and forks — RIGHT / MISSING
5. beds desks and chairs — RIGHT / MISSING
6. lions tigers and bears — RIGHT / MISSING
7. shirts, socks, and coats — RIGHT / MISSING
8. cookies, muffins, and pies — RIGHT / MISSING

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 a new list of three things with commas in the right places. Then write a different list of three things with commas missing.

RIGHT _____

MISSING _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with four things in a list. Use commas to separate the things.

ANSWER KEY

Comma List Detectives

GRADE 2 · 2.W.8.b.III

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	pencils, crayons, and markers	**RIGHT**	Commas follow the first and second items.
2	peaches, grapes, and melons	**RIGHT**	Commas follow the first and second items.
3	kites drums and balls	**MISSING**	It needs commas after kites and drums.
4	cups, plates, and forks	**RIGHT**	Commas follow the first and second items.
5	beds desks and chairs	**MISSING**	It needs commas after beds and desks.
6	lions tigers and bears	**MISSING**	It needs commas after lions and tigers.
7	shirts, socks, and coats	**RIGHT**	Commas follow the first and second items.
8	cookies, muffins, and pies	**RIGHT**	Commas follow the first and second items.

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)

- **RIGHT**: beans, rice, and corn
- **MISSING**: rakes shovels and hoses

Challenge: I packed a book, a map, a snack, and a game.

RIGHT: 1, 2, 4, 7, 8. MISSING: 3, 5, 6. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the commas after the first two items or say where those commas are needed.