Sentence Pair Sort

Sort, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

5.W.6.c "Usage – Writing correctly simple, compound, and complex declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences, using correlative conjunctions (e.g., either/or, neither/nor)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

EITHER/OR

Either goes with or. Together, they name two possibilities.

Either the flute or the harp can play the tune.

NEITHER/NOR

Neither goes with nor. Together, they rule out both possibilities.

Neither the fox nor the owl lives in the pond.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle CHOICE or NEITHER.

1.	Either Jada or Luis hid the map.	CHOICE	NEITHER
2.	Will either the pilot or the captain steer the ship?	CHOICE	NEITHER
3.	Choose either the silver key or the brass key.	CHOICE	NEITHER
4.	Neither the baker nor the chef found the missing recipe.	CHOICE	NEITHER
5.	Neither the twins nor their cousin heard the bell!	CHOICE	NEITHER
6.	Either the robot or the inventor built the tiny bridge!	CHOICE	NEITHER
7.	Neither a storm nor a power outage stopped the show.	CHOICE	NEITHER
8.	Neither the goalie nor the referee saw the sneaky squirrel.	CHOICE	NEITHER

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 sentence using either/or and one using neither/nor.

CHOICE _____

NEITHER _____

CHALLENGE

Write a complex sentence that begins with Because and uses either/or or neither/nor.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Pair Sort

GRADE 5 · 5.W.6.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Either Jada or Luis hid the map.	**CHOICE**	Either/or names two possible people.
2	Will either the pilot or the captain steer the ship?	**CHOICE**	Either/or names two possible people.
3	Choose either the silver key or the brass key.	**CHOICE**	Either/or offers two keys to choose from.
4	Neither the baker nor the chef found the missing recipe.	**NEITHER**	Neither/nor rules out both people.
5	Neither the twins nor their cousin heard the bell!	**NEITHER**	Neither/nor says both groups did not hear it.
6	Either the robot or the inventor built the tiny bridge!	**CHOICE**	Either/or names two possible builders.
7	Neither a storm nor a power outage stopped the show.	**NEITHER**	Neither/nor rules out both possible causes.
8	Neither the goalie nor the referee saw the sneaky squirrel.	**NEITHER**	Neither/nor says both people failed to see it.

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)

- **CHOICE**: Either Nina or Omar can carry the lantern.
- **NEITHER**: Neither the kitten nor the puppy touched the paint.

Challenge: Because the stage was dark, neither the actor nor the dancer saw the steps.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the paired words and tell whether they name possibilities or rule out both options. For example, item 1 uses either/or to name two possible people, while item 4 uses neither/nor to rule out both people.