Join or Splice?

Sort sentences and defend two choices.

L.11-12.2 "When writing: Demonstrate command of the conventions of General American English capitalization, punctuation and spelling when writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT JOIN

A semicolon can join two closely related complete sentences without a joining word.

The telescope tilted; Saturn slipped out of view.

COMMA SPLICE

A comma splice happens when a comma alone joins two complete sentences without a joining word. Use a semicolon or a period instead.

A glacier cracked, the ice shifted.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle CORRECT or SPLICE, then choose two items and explain how you knew each category in Part 2.

1.	The library closes at six; the debate team needs another meeting space.	CORRECT SPLICE
2.	After the rain stopped, the volunteers opened the garden; visitors followed the stone path.	CORRECT SPLICE
3.	The mural needs a brighter background, the artists will test three colors.	CORRECT SPLICE
4.	Some students requested a later bus; others preferred an earlier start.	CORRECT SPLICE
5.	The petition gathered forty signatures, the council scheduled a vote.	CORRECT SPLICE
6.	Although the lights worked, the projector failed, the audience waited in the lobby.	CORRECT SPLICE
7.	The first proposal was expensive; the revised plan fit the budget.	CORRECT SPLICE
8.	On Friday, the principal approved the exhibit; the student curators began installing it.	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 original sentence with a correct semicolon join and one with a comma splice; label each.

CORRECT _____

SPLICE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one comma splice from Part 1 and revise it two ways: once with a semicolon and once as two sentences.

ANSWER KEY

Join or Splice?

HIGH SCHOOL · L.11-12.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The library closes at six; the debate team needs another meeting space.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two complete sentences.
2	After the rain stopped, the volunteers opened the garden; visitors followed the stone path.	**CORRECT**	The opening dependent clause has its own comma, and the semicolon joins two complete sentences.
3	The mural needs a brighter background, the artists will test three colors.	**SPLICE**	A comma alone joins two complete sentences.
4	Some students requested a later bus; others preferred an earlier start.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two complete sentences.
5	The petition gathered forty signatures, the council scheduled a vote.	**SPLICE**	A comma alone joins two complete sentences.
6	Although the lights worked, the projector failed, the audience waited in the lobby.	**SPLICE**	The comma after the opening dependent clause is correct, but the comma after 'failed' splices two complete sentences.
7	The first proposal was expensive; the revised plan fit the budget.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon joins two complete sentences.
8	On Friday, the principal approved the exhibit; the student curators began installing it.	**CORRECT**	The introductory phrase has its own comma, and the semicolon 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 recipe called for saffron; the chef used turmeric instead.
- **SPLICE**: The kite snagged a branch, its string snapped.

Challenge: Semicolon: The mural needs a brighter background; the artists will test three colors. Two sentences: The mural needs a brighter background. The artists will test three colors.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are CORRECT; items 3, 5, and 6 are SPLICE. For Part 2, look for explanations that identify whether a semicolon or a comma alone joins two complete sentences.