Punctuation Partners

Extra details in the middle of a sentence need a pair of marks.

L.6.2 "When writing: Demonstrate appropriate use of punctuation (commas, parentheses, dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements. Demonstrate appropriate use of strategies to identify and correct spelling errors."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE PAIR

Commas or parentheses mark both the start and end of an extra detail. You can remove the detail and still have a complete sentence.

The lantern (a gift from my uncle) lit the porch.

MISSING MARK

The extra detail has an opening mark but no closing mark. Add the missing mark to show where the detail ends.

A violin, an old family treasure rested inside its case.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle PAIRED or MISSING.

1.	The harbor, a shelter for boats, stayed calm during the storm.	PAIRED	MISSING
2.	Maya (the youngest runner) crossed the finish line.	PAIRED	MISSING
3.	The museum, a former train station opened on Monday.	PAIRED	MISSING
4.	The drummer, a member of our band, kept a steady beat.	PAIRED	MISSING
5.	Our coach (a skilled swimmer led the warm-up.	PAIRED	MISSING
6.	The parcel (wrapped in blue paper) arrived at noon.	PAIRED	MISSING
7.	The canyon, a popular hiking spot, stretches for miles.	PAIRED	MISSING
8.	The robot, built from scrap metal rolled across the floor.	PAIRED	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

Part 2: Pick two sort items and explain how you knew where each belongs. Part 3: Write one new sentence with a complete punctuation pair and one with a missing mark.

PAIRED _____

MISSING _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one MISSING sentence, add the missing mark, then write it again without the extra detail.

ANSWER KEY

Punctuation Partners

GRADE 6 · L.6.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The harbor, a shelter for boats, stayed calm during the storm.	**PAIRED**	Commas surround the extra detail.
2	Maya (the youngest runner) crossed the finish line.	**PAIRED**	Parentheses surround the extra detail.
3	The museum, a former train station opened on Monday.	**MISSING**	A comma is missing after station.
4	The drummer, a member of our band, kept a steady beat.	**PAIRED**	Commas surround the extra detail.
5	Our coach (a skilled swimmer led the warm-up.	**MISSING**	A closing parenthesis is missing after swimmer.
6	The parcel (wrapped in blue paper) arrived at noon.	**PAIRED**	Parentheses surround the extra detail.
7	The canyon, a popular hiking spot, stretches for miles.	**PAIRED**	Commas surround the extra detail.
8	The robot, built from scrap metal rolled across the floor.	**MISSING**	A comma is missing after metal.

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)

- **PAIRED**: The octopus (a skilled hunter) hid among the rocks.
- **MISSING**: The library, a quiet place closed at six.

Challenge: The museum, a former train station, opened on Monday. The museum opened on Monday.

For Part 2, students should name the extra detail and identify whether it has both marks. For example, item 2 has two parentheses, while item 3 needs a comma after station.