Semicolon Check

Test each side before a sentence goes to print.

11.2.W.4 "Students will routinely and recursively use resources to edit for grammar, usage, mechanics, and format in order to finalize drafts for publication."

NAME _____ DATE _____

READY TO PUBLISH

A semicolon can join two closely related complete sentences. The words on each side must be able to stand alone.

The orchard produced peaches; neighbors shared the harvest.

NEEDS REVISION

If either side of the semicolon cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, the punctuation needs revision.

Unless the lantern burns out; the hikers can see the route.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle READY or REVISE for each item, then choose two items and explain how you tested the words on both sides of each semicolon.

1. The debate ended at noon; several students stayed to talk. READY REVISE

2. Although the battery was low; the drone kept flying. READY REVISE

3. The recipe called for ginger; we used cinnamon instead. READY REVISE

4. The rain stopped before dawn; the creek still flooded the trail. READY REVISE

5. Because the museum was crowded; we visited the library. READY REVISE

6. The editor checked every source; the article went to print. READY REVISE

7. While the train waited at the station; passengers read the news. READY REVISE

8. The lights flickered during rehearsal; the cast continued singing. READY REVISE

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 READY sentence and one new REVISE sentence, each with a semicolon.

READY _____

REVISE _____

CHALLENGE

Use the rule box to fix one REVISE item, then check both sides of its semicolon and explain your change.

ANSWER KEY # Semicolon Check

GRADE 11 · 11.2.W.4

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The debate ended at noon; several students stayed to talk.	**READY**	Both sides of the semicolon are complete sentences.
2	Although the battery was low; the drone kept flying.	**REVISE**	The clause beginning with "Although" cannot stand alone.
3	The recipe called for ginger; we used cinnamon instead.	**READY**	Both sides of the semicolon are complete sentences.
4	The rain stopped before dawn; the creek still flooded the trail.	**READY**	Both sides of the semicolon are complete sentences.
5	Because the museum was crowded; we visited the library.	**REVISE**	The clause beginning with "Because" cannot stand alone.
6	The editor checked every source; the article went to print.	**READY**	Both sides of the semicolon are complete sentences.
7	While the train waited at the station; passengers read the news.	**REVISE**	The clause beginning with "While" cannot stand alone.
8	The lights flickered during rehearsal; the cast continued singing.	**READY**	Both sides of the semicolon are 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)

- **READY**: The compass pointed north; our team followed the path.
- **REVISE**: If the alarm rang; the guard checked the door.

Challenge: The battery was low; the drone kept flying. I removed "Although" so both sides can stand alone as complete sentences.

For Part 2, look for an explanation that tests whether each side of the semicolon can stand alone. In the challenge, students may make a different valid revision if their explanation matches their edit.