Sounds on Record

Read a model and examine how sentence endings shape meaning.

12.5.W.4 "Students will write using correct end mark mechanics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle every sentence-ending mark in the passage, then underline one sentence that reports a question without asking it directly.

A Sound Worth Saving

1 At the neighborhood library, Mara placed a small recorder beside the retired ferry captain. She had come to preserve the sounds of a harbor that had changed since the last passenger boat left its dock. What did the morning crossing sound like? The captain tapped the table twice and described the bell that once sent commuters toward the gangway. Mara asked whether the bell rang before each departure. He nodded, then imitated its bright clang with a spoon against his mug. Outside, a bus hissed to a stop, a reminder that the town still moved, even without its ferry.

2 Later, Mara carried the recording to the library's tiny audio booth. The curator wondered whether the recording was complete. Near the end, a chair scraped across the floor, almost drowning out the captain's imitation of the bell. Should they cut that noisy moment? Mara argued that the scrape belonged to the interview, but the curator suggested a short note to help listeners identify each sound. They kept the entire clip and added a transcript. Mara's note explained that the bell was an imitation, not an original field recording.

3 Before the library posted the clip, Mara invited the captain to listen. He smiled at the spoon's clang and said the recording brought back the crowded mornings he missed. A volunteer called out, "That clang is convincing!" The captain laughed, although the boats themselves remained silent. Label each sound before you post the file. That instruction, written on the booth wall, guided Mara as she prepared the final version. The clip could not restore the ferry, but the transcript's clear punctuation and notes helped listeners distinguish memory, imitation, and the sounds recorded in the room.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the sentence "What did the morning crossing sound like?" end with a question mark?

2. In paragraph 2, identify the sentence about what the curator wondered. Why does it end with a period?

3. Which words in paragraph 3 end with an exclamation point? What does that mark express?

4. Why does "Label each sound before you post the file." end with a period rather than a question mark?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence scene about preparing a community exhibit on an object other than the ferry recording. Include a direct question, an indirect question that ends with a period, an exclamation, and a command that ends with a period.

ANSWER KEY # Sounds on Record

GRADE 12 · 12.5.W.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle every sentence-ending mark in the passage, then underline one sentence that reports a question without asking it directly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the sentence "What did the morning crossing sound like?" end with a question mark?	**It asks a direct question about the sound of the crossing.**
2	In paragraph 2, identify the sentence about what the curator wondered. Why does it end with a period?	**"The curator wondered whether the recording was complete." It reports the curator's question rather than asking it directly.**
3	Which words in paragraph 3 end with an exclamation point? What does that mark express?	**"That clang is convincing!" The exclamation point expresses the volunteer's strong reaction.**
4	Why does "Label each sound before you post the file." end with a period rather than a question mark?	**It gives an instruction rather than asks a question. A period correctly ends this calm command.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the museum, I set a cracked telescope beside its handwritten label. Who used it to study the night sky? I wondered whether the lens still worked. What a remarkable view it must have offered! Place the telescope behind the glass. Then I checked the label for claims the museum could support.

Accept any correctly identified indirect question from the passage for the marking task. For the open response, check that the scene has five or six sentences and that each required sentence type has the correct end mark.