Thoughts That Connect

Sort sentences by how their complete thoughts connect.

7.5.W.3 "Students will recognize and correct the following: run-ons, errors in subject and verb agreement, inappropriate shifts in verb tense, and vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

JOINED CORRECTLY

Two complete thoughts can connect with a comma and a joining word, or with a semicolon.

The telescope slipped, and the tripod held steady.

RUN-ON

A run-on pushes two complete thoughts together without the punctuation they need. A comma by itself is not enough.

A lantern flickered the campers stopped talking.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle JOINED or RUNON for each item, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1.	The whistle blew the runners sprang forward.	JOINED RUNON
2.	Nico checked the map, the trail curved west.	JOINED RUNON
3.	The robot rolled backward, but its lights stayed on.	JOINED RUNON
4.	Ava painted the mural; Eli mixed the colors.	JOINED RUNON
5.	The soup smelled spicy, so I opened a window.	JOINED RUNON
6.	The bus arrived late everyone hurried aboard.	JOINED RUNON
7.	Jules missed the target, yet the arrow hit the fence.	JOINED RUNON
8.	A fox crossed the yard; the dog watched from the porch.	JOINED RUNON

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 JOINED example and one new RUNON example, each with two complete thoughts.

JOINED _____

RUNON _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one RUNON item and rewrite it two ways: once with a comma and joining word, and once with a semicolon. Include the item number.

ANSWER KEY

Thoughts That Connect

GRADE 7 · 7.5.W.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The whistle blew the runners sprang forward.	**RUNON**	Two complete thoughts have no punctuation between them.
2	Nico checked the map, the trail curved west.	**RUNON**	A comma alone separates two complete thoughts.
3	The robot rolled backward, but its lights stayed on.	**JOINED**	A comma and but connect two complete thoughts.
4	Ava painted the mural; Eli mixed the colors.	**JOINED**	A semicolon connects two complete thoughts.
5	The soup smelled spicy, so I opened a window.	**JOINED**	A comma and so connect two complete thoughts.
6	The bus arrived late everyone hurried aboard.	**RUNON**	Two complete thoughts have no punctuation between them.
7	Jules missed the target, yet the arrow hit the fence.	**JOINED**	A comma and yet connect two complete thoughts.
8	A fox crossed the yard; the dog watched from the porch.	**JOINED**	A semicolon connects two complete thoughts.

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)

- **JOINED**: The drummer paused, but the dancers kept moving.
- **RUNON**: The door creaked someone stepped inside.

Challenge: 1. The whistle blew, and the runners sprang forward. The whistle blew; the runners sprang forward.

Items 1, 2, and 6 are RUNON. Items 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 are JOINED. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the two complete thoughts and explain whether the punctuation connects them correctly.