Join or Splice?

Sort sentence joins and explain your choices.

8.2.W.4 "Students will routinely and recursively edit for correct grammar, usage, and mechanics, using various resources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT JOIN

Two complete thoughts can be joined with a comma followed by a joining word such as and, but, or so.

The kettle whistled, and Grandpa poured tea.

COMMA SPLICE

A comma splice joins two complete thoughts with only a comma. The comma needs a joining word after it, or it can be replaced with a semicolon.

The violin squeaked, the audience winced.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or SPLICE for each sentence, then choose two items and explain how you knew each answer in Part 2.

1.	The bus arrived, and the students lined up.	CORRECT	SPLICE
2.	Mina checked the map, but the trail was closed.	CORRECT	SPLICE
3.	The gate creaked, the dog barked.	CORRECT	SPLICE
4.	The lights dimmed, the play began.	CORRECT	SPLICE
5.	We packed extra water, so the hike felt easier.	CORRECT	SPLICE
6.	The timer rang, and Mateo closed his book.	CORRECT	SPLICE
7.	Rain filled the ditch, but the road stayed dry.	CORRECT	SPLICE
8.	Nora drew a sketch, her brother painted a mural.	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 new sentence with a correct comma-and-word join and one new sentence with a comma splice.

CORRECT _____

SPLICE _____

CHALLENGE

Revise one comma splice from Part 1 in two ways: add a joining word after the comma, then replace the comma with a semicolon.

ANSWER KEY

Join or Splice?

GRADE 8 · 8.2.W.4

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The bus arrived, and the students lined up.	**CORRECT**	The comma and and correctly join two complete thoughts.
2	Mina checked the map, but the trail was closed.	**CORRECT**	The comma and but correctly join two complete thoughts.
3	The gate creaked, the dog barked.	**SPLICE**	Only a comma joins two complete thoughts.
4	The lights dimmed, the play began.	**SPLICE**	Only a comma joins two complete thoughts.
5	We packed extra water, so the hike felt easier.	**CORRECT**	The comma and so correctly join two complete thoughts.
6	The timer rang, and Mateo closed his book.	**CORRECT**	The comma and and correctly join two complete thoughts.
7	Rain filled the ditch, but the road stayed dry.	**CORRECT**	The comma and but correctly join two complete thoughts.
8	Nora drew a sketch, her brother painted a mural.	**SPLICE**	Only a comma joins 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)

- **CORRECT**: The bell rang, and the class entered.
- **SPLICE**: My pencil snapped, I borrowed another.

Challenge: The gate creaked, and the dog barked. The gate creaked; the dog barked.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify two complete thoughts and explain whether the comma has a joining word after it. For the challenge, both revisions must keep the original meaning.