Quote Mark Check

Sort dialogue by where its punctuation lands.

8.5.W.9 "Students will write using correct quotation marks mechanics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT PLACEMENT

Put a comma or period inside the closing quotation mark when it ends a speaker's words. If the speaker asks a question, put the question mark inside, too.

Juno whispered, "The violin needs tuning."

INCORRECT PLACEMENT

A comma or period placed after the closing quotation mark is incorrect when it ends a speaker's words.

Omar said, "A comet crossed the sky".

1 SORT

8 items

Circle RIGHT or WRONG for each sentence, then choose two item numbers and explain how the placement of each comma or period proves your choice.

1.	Amira said, "The trail splits here."	RIGHT WRONG
2.	"I packed an extra pencil," said Leo.	RIGHT WRONG
3.	Priya said, "The bus arrives at noon".	RIGHT WRONG
4.	"We should check the attic," said Ellis.	RIGHT WRONG
5.	"The aquarium opens today", said Cora.	RIGHT WRONG
6.	Dante said, "That button controls the fan".	RIGHT WRONG
7.	"My jacket is still wet," said Rosa.	RIGHT WRONG
8.	Nolan said, "The soup smells spicy."	RIGHT WRONG

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 RIGHT dialogue sentence and one new WRONG dialogue sentence. In your WRONG sentence, make the only error a comma or period placed outside the closing quotation mark.

RIGHT _____

WRONG _____

CHALLENGE

Write a new dialogue sentence in which someone asks a question. Put the question mark in the correct place and add a speaker tag after the quote.

ANSWER KEY

Quote Mark Check

GRADE 8 · 8.5.W.9

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Amira said, "The trail splits here."	**RIGHT**	The period is inside the closing quotation mark.
2	"I packed an extra pencil," said Leo.	**RIGHT**	The comma before the speaker tag is inside the closing quotation mark.
3	Priya said, "The bus arrives at noon".	**WRONG**	The period is outside the closing quotation mark.
4	"We should check the attic," said Ellis.	**RIGHT**	The comma before the speaker tag is inside the closing quotation mark.
5	"The aquarium opens today", said Cora.	**WRONG**	The comma is outside the closing quotation mark.
6	Dante said, "That button controls the fan".	**WRONG**	The period is outside the closing quotation mark.
7	"My jacket is still wet," said Rosa.	**RIGHT**	The comma before the speaker tag is inside the closing quotation mark.
8	Nolan said, "The soup smells spicy."	**RIGHT**	The period is inside the closing quotation mark.

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)

- **RIGHT**: Suri said, "The paint is dry."
- **WRONG**: Bex said, "The lantern flickered".

Challenge: "Where did the otter go?" asked Finn.

Sort order: RIGHT, RIGHT, WRONG, RIGHT, WRONG, WRONG, RIGHT, RIGHT. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify whether the comma or period is inside or outside the closing quotation mark.