Sound Check

Choose end marks that match each sentence's purpose.

9.5.W.5 "Students will write using correct end mark mechanics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle every sentence's end mark in the passage, then label each circle P for period, Q for question mark, or E for exclamation point.

Making a Storm

1. On Friday afternoon, our theater crew transformed a storage room into a temporary sound studio. A sheet of plywood became a door, and two handfuls of dried beans became rain against a window. Our director wanted the storm scene to sound close enough to make the audience tense. Would the beans make a convincing downpour? I poured them slowly into a metal tray while Maya recorded from behind a curtain. The first take sounded more like coins falling on a kitchen floor. We tried again with a cardboard box, and the softer patter finally matched the scene.

2. I wondered whether the speakers would reproduce the soft patter in the auditorium. At rehearsal, the low ceiling made every noise seem louder than it had in our cramped studio. Could the audience hear the rain without losing the actors' voices? Our director asked us to lower the sound by a few levels. We lowered it, and the actors' words came through clearly. What a difference a small adjustment made! Even the quietest lines reached the back row, where two students listened with their eyes closed.

3. By opening night, we had labeled each sound file with a cue number and checked the order twice. Listen for the thunder after the window shuts. That instruction sat in bold letters beside our laptop, where a missed cue could change the whole scene. During the performance, the actor slammed the plywood door, and Maya played the thunder cue, then started our rain recording. A low rumble filled the room just as the lights dimmed. The timing was perfect! Did anyone notice that our rain began as beans in a cardboard box? After the final bow, the audience applauded the actors while our crew quietly packed away the tray.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does “Would the beans make a convincing downpour?” end with a question mark?

2. Why does the first sentence of paragraph 2 end with a period, even though it includes “whether”?

3. What does the exclamation point in “What a difference a small adjustment made!” show?

4. Why does “Listen for the thunder after the window shuts.” end with a period?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence scene about preparing for an event. Include one direct question, one sentence that reports a question without asking it, one calm instruction, one exclamation, and one other statement; use the correct end mark for each.

ANSWER KEY

Sound Check

GRADE 9 · 9.5.W.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle every sentence's end mark in the passage, then label each circle P for period, Q for question mark, or E for exclamation point. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does "Would the beans make a convincing downpour?" end with a question mark?	**It directly asks whether the beans will sound like rain.**
2	Why does the first sentence of paragraph 2 end with a period, even though it includes "whether"?	**The narrator reports wondering about the speakers rather than directly asking a question.**
3	What does the exclamation point in "What a difference a small adjustment made!" show?	**It shows a strong reaction to how much the volume change helped.**
4	Why does "Listen for the thunder after the window shuts." end with a period?	**It gives a calm instruction rather than asking a question or expressing strong feeling.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

We set up the microphones before the debate. Would the back row hear each speaker? I wondered whether the batteries would last all evening. Check the sound before the doors open. The final test came through perfectly!

Accept explanations that connect each end mark to the sentence's purpose. In Part 3, the reported question must end with a period, while the direct question must end with a question mark.