Sentence Detective

Sort two kinds of sentence errors.

4.LF.38.c "Recognize and correct sentence fragments and run-on sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FRAGMENT

A fragment is missing something it needs to be a full sentence. It cannot stand alone as a complete thought.

Beside the tall oak tree.

RUN-ON

A run-on joins two complete sentences without a correct break between them.

Ava opened her lunchbox she found an orange.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle FRAGMENT or RUN-ON for each item, then choose one of each and explain how you knew in Part 2.

1. Before the movie began. FRAGMENT RUN-ON
2. The bell rang we lined up. FRAGMENT RUN-ON
3. Nina drew a map her friend colored it. FRAGMENT RUN-ON
4. Across the icy pond. FRAGMENT RUN-ON
5. Because the bus was late. FRAGMENT RUN-ON
6. The dog barked the baby woke up. FRAGMENT RUN-ON
7. The bright red balloon. FRAGMENT RUN-ON
8. While my brother baked cookies. FRAGMENT RUN-ON

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one of each and explain how you knew in Part 2.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new fragment and one new run-on about topics not used in the sort.

FRAGMENT _____

RUN-ON _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one fragment and one run-on from Part 1, then rewrite both so they have no sentence errors.

ANSWER KEY # Sentence Detective

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Before the movie began.	**FRAGMENT**	The dependent clause cannot stand alone.
2	The bell rang we lined up.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete sentences have no correct break.
3	Nina drew a map her friend colored it.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete sentences have no correct break.
4	Across the icy pond.	**FRAGMENT**	The phrase has no subject and verb.
5	Because the bus was late.	**FRAGMENT**	The dependent clause cannot stand alone.
6	The dog barked the baby woke up.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete sentences have no correct break.
7	The bright red balloon.	**FRAGMENT**	The words name something but do not tell what it does or is.
8	While my brother baked cookies.	**FRAGMENT**	The dependent clause cannot stand alone.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one of each and explain how you knew in Part 2.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FRAGMENT**: Near the noisy waterfall.
- **RUN-ON**: The rocket launched the crowd cheered.

Challenge: 1. Before the movie began, we found our seats. 2. The bell rang. We lined up.

For Part 2, look for an explanation that a fragment cannot stand alone and that a run-on contains two complete thoughts without a correct break. For the challenge, accept any accurate corrections of the two selected items.