# Detail Detectives

Which details need commas?

**6.LL.19** "Demonstrate command of standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics when writing. a. Use commas, parentheses, or dashes to set off nonrestrictive or parenthetical elements. b. Revise writing for correct mechanics with a focus on commas..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

**EXTRA DETAIL**

These words add information about someone or something already clear. Put commas around them.

The moon, Earth's natural satellite, is visible tonight.

**NEEDED DETAIL**

These words tell which person or thing you mean. Do not put commas around them.

The runner in the yellow jersey won the race.

## 1 SORT

8 items

Circle EXTRA or NEEDED for each underlined detail in the draft sentences, then pick two items and explain how you knew in Part 2.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | The Eiffel Tower a landmark in Paris attracts many visitors. | EXTRA NEEDED |
| **2.** | Aisha the captain of our chess team spoke first. | EXTRA NEEDED |
| **3.** | The book with the torn cover belongs to Malik. | EXTRA NEEDED |
| **4.** | Lake Superior the largest Great Lake by area borders several states. | EXTRA NEEDED |
| **5.** | The cookie with pink frosting is for Jo. | EXTRA NEEDED |
| **6.** | The backpack beside the window is mine. | EXTRA NEEDED |
| **7.** | Mercury the closest planet to the sun orbits quickly. | EXTRA NEEDED |
| **8.** | The Statue of Liberty a gift from France stands in New York Harbor. | EXTRA NEEDED |

## 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 an EXTRA detail and one with a NEEDED detail; use commas correctly.

**EXTRA** _____

**NEEDED** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Choose one EXTRA item from Part 1 and rewrite its full sentence with commas in the right places.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Detail Detectives

**GRADE 6 · 6.LL.19**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The Eiffel Tower a landmark in Paris attracts many visitors. | **EXTRA** | The name identifies the landmark; the underlined words add information and need commas. |
| 2 | Aisha the captain of our chess team spoke first. | **EXTRA** | Aisha is already named; the underlined words add information and need commas. |
| 3 | The book with the torn cover belongs to Malik. | **NEEDED** | The underlined words identify which book. |
| 4 | Lake Superior the largest Great Lake by area borders several states. | **EXTRA** | The name identifies the lake; the underlined words add information and need commas. |
| 5 | The cookie with pink frosting is for Jo. | **NEEDED** | The underlined words identify which cookie. |
| 6 | The backpack beside the window is mine. | **NEEDED** | The underlined words identify which backpack. |
| 7 | Mercury the closest planet to the sun orbits quickly. | **EXTRA** | Mercury is already named; the underlined words add information and need commas. |
| 8 | The Statue of Liberty a gift from France stands in New York Harbor. | **EXTRA** | The name identifies the statue; the underlined words add information and need commas. |

## 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)

- **EXTRA**: Ruby, my favorite robot, can dance.
- **NEEDED**: The jacket with blue buttons is mine.

**Challenge:** The Eiffel Tower, a landmark in Paris, attracts many visitors.

For Part 2, students should explain two choices by saying whether the underlined words add information or identify which person or thing they mean. For example, item 1 names a specific landmark, while item 3 tells which book.