Draft Change Detectives

Sort changes, explain two choices, and create your own.

3.W.5.a "Generate a draft by developing, selecting, and organizing ideas relevant to topic, purpose, and genre; revise to improve writing, using appropriate reference materials (e.g., quality of ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

REVISE

Revise to make your ideas clearer or your writing stronger. You might add a detail, move a sentence, or choose a better word.

Change "The garden was pretty" to "Bright sunflowers filled the garden."

EDIT

Edit to fix writing rules, such as spelling, capital letters, and punctuation.

Change "the moon is bright." to "The moon is bright."

1 SORT

8 items

Read each change, then circle REVISE or EDIT.

1. Move the ending sentence to the start of a story about a lost backpack. REVISE EDIT

2. Add a detail about rain to a story about camping. REVISE EDIT

3. Change "becuz" to "because" in a draft about a race. REVISE EDIT

4. Replace "nice" with "helpful" when describing a neighbor. REVISE EDIT

5. Add a question mark to the end of a question about lunch. REVISE EDIT

6. Capitalize the first letter of a sentence about a frog. REVISE EDIT

7. Cut a sentence about a video game from a report on bees. REVISE EDIT

8. Join two short sentences so a story about a kite sounds smoother. REVISE EDIT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two numbered items and explain how you knew each answer.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new revision change and one new editing change.

REVISE _____

EDIT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence about a picnic with no end mark. Revise it by adding a detail, then edit it by adding the end mark.

ANSWER KEY

Draft Change Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.W.5.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Move the ending sentence to the start of a story about a lost backpack.	**REVISE**	Moving a sentence improves the story's organization.
2	Add a detail about rain to a story about camping.	**REVISE**	Adding a relevant detail develops the story.
3	Change “becuz” to “because” in a draft about a race.	**EDIT**	Correcting a misspelled word is editing.
4	Replace “nice” with “helpful” when describing a neighbor.	**REVISE**	Choosing a more precise word strengthens the description.
5	Add a question mark to the end of a question about lunch.	**EDIT**	Adding a needed end mark fixes punctuation.
6	Capitalize the first letter of a sentence about a frog.	**EDIT**	Fixing capitalization is editing.
7	Cut a sentence about a video game from a report on bees.	**REVISE**	Removing an unrelated sentence keeps the report on topic.
8	Join two short sentences so a story about a kite sounds smoother.	**REVISE**	Combining sentences improves the flow of the writing.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick two numbered items and explain how you knew each answer.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **REVISE**: Add a detail about the smell of bread to a bakery story.
- **EDIT**: Change “frend” to “friend” in a letter.

Challenge: Draft: We ate outside Revision: We ate strawberries outside Edit: We ate strawberries outside.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 2 is REVISE because a rain detail develops the story, while item 5 is EDIT because a question mark fixes punctuation.