Speech Mark Detectives

Sort sentences by their speech punctuation.

4.W.7.b.II "Correctly using quotation marks and commas to mark direct speech."

NAME _____ DATE _____

READY TO READ

Quotation marks surround the exact words someone says. A comma separates the speaker's words from the quote.

Maya murmured, "Kites fly."

NEEDS A FIX

The sentence tells what someone says, but a comma or quotation mark is missing.

Leo shouted "Clouds drift."

1 SORT

8 items

Circle RIGHT or FIX for each item, then choose two items from different categories and explain which punctuation clues helped you sort them.

1.	Tara said, "The bell rang."	RIGHT	FIX
2.	Eli asked, "Can we paint?"	RIGHT	FIX
3.	Rosa said "I found a shell."	RIGHT	FIX
4.	Ben yelled, "Watch the ball!"	RIGHT	FIX
5.	June whispered, I hear footsteps."	RIGHT	FIX
6.	Caleb said, "The gate is open.	RIGHT	FIX
7.	Nora replied, "I can help."	RIGHT	FIX
8.	Sam called, "Lunch is ready."	RIGHT	FIX

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose two items from different categories and explain which punctuation clues helped you sort them.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two new sentences: one RIGHT sentence and one FIX sentence that is missing only the comma before the spoken words.

RIGHT _____

FIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a RIGHT sentence with the spoken words first and the speaker's words after them.

ANSWER KEY

Speech Mark Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.W.7.b.II

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Tara said, "The bell rang."	**RIGHT**	A comma follows the speaker's words, and quotation marks surround the speech.
2	Eli asked, "Can we paint?"	**RIGHT**	A comma comes before the quote, and the question mark is inside the closing quotation mark.
3	Rosa said "I found a shell."	**FIX**	The comma after said is missing.
4	Ben yelled, "Watch the ball!"	**RIGHT**	A comma comes before the quote, and the exclamation point is inside the closing quotation mark.
5	June whispered, I hear footsteps."	**FIX**	The opening quotation mark is missing.
6	Caleb said, "The gate is open.	**FIX**	The closing quotation mark is missing.
7	Nora replied, "I can help."	**RIGHT**	A comma follows the speaker's words, and quotation marks surround the speech.
8	Sam called, "Lunch is ready."	**RIGHT**	A comma follows the speaker's words, and quotation marks surround the speech.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose two items from different categories and explain which punctuation clues helped you sort them.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **RIGHT**: Pia said, "My pencil broke."
- **FIX**: Finn said "The puppy is asleep."

Challenge: "The bus is here," said Omar.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the comma or quotation marks in each chosen item. In the challenge, the comma belongs inside the closing quotation mark.