Sentence Traffic Check

Spot the join between two complete thoughts.

6.W.6.b "Usage – Writing simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences; recognizing sentence fragments and run-ons."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence joins two complete thoughts correctly. Use a comma with a joining word such as and, but, or so, or use a semicolon.

Maya whispered, yet Leo heard her.

RUN-ON SENTENCE

A run-on has two complete thoughts that are not joined correctly. The thoughts may have no punctuation between them or only a comma.

Owls hooted foxes hid.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, read each item and circle COMPOUND or RUNON; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

1. The bell rang, and the students entered the gym. COMPOUND RUNON

2. I packed my lunch; my brother filled his water bottle. COMPOUND RUNON

3. The wind grew stronger the kite fell into the grass. COMPOUND RUNON

4. Nina checked the map, but Omar chose another trail. COMPOUND RUNON

5. The bus was late, we waited by the gate. COMPOUND RUNON

6. The soup smelled delicious everyone asked for a bowl. COMPOUND RUNON

7. The lights dimmed, so the movie began. COMPOUND RUNON

8. Ava finished the puzzle; her dad framed it. COMPOUND RUNON

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new compound sentence and one new run-on sentence, each with two complete thoughts.

COMPOUND _____

RUNON _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one run-on from Part 1 and fix it two ways: once with a comma and a joining word, and once with a semicolon.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Traffic Check

GRADE 6 · 6.W.6.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The bell rang, and the students entered the gym.	**COMPOUND**	A comma and and correctly join two complete thoughts.
2	I packed my lunch; my brother filled his water bottle.	**COMPOUND**	A semicolon correctly joins two complete thoughts.
3	The wind grew stronger the kite fell into the grass.	**RUNON**	Two complete thoughts have no punctuation or joining word between them.
4	Nina checked the map, but Omar chose another trail.	**COMPOUND**	A comma and but correctly join two complete thoughts.
5	The bus was late, we waited by the gate.	**RUNON**	A comma alone does not correctly join two complete thoughts.
6	The soup smelled delicious everyone asked for a bowl.	**RUNON**	Two complete thoughts have no punctuation or joining word between them.
7	The lights dimmed, so the movie began.	**COMPOUND**	A comma and so correctly join two complete thoughts.
8	Ava finished the puzzle; her dad framed it.	**COMPOUND**	A semicolon correctly joins two complete thoughts.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

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

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **COMPOUND**: The puppy chased a leaf, and the kitten watched.
- **RUNON**: Rain soaked my shoes I ran inside.

Challenge: The bus was late, so we waited by the gate. The bus was late; we waited by the gate.

Part 1: Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are COMPOUND; items 3, 5, and 6 are RUNON. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify two complete thoughts and explain whether they are joined correctly.