Clause Connection Check

Sort sentences by how they link complete thoughts.

9-10.W.7.a "Punctuation – Using a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb to link two or more closely related independent clauses."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT

When two closely related clauses can each stand alone, put a semicolon before the conjunctive adverb and a comma after it.

The lantern flickered; nevertheless, the hikers continued.

NEEDS REVISION

Revise the sentence if either clause cannot stand alone or if the semicolon or comma needed for this pattern is missing.

The kettle whistled, therefore, the chef turned off the stove.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or REVISE for each sentence, then choose one of each in Part 2 and explain the clues you used.

1.	The library closed early; however, the study group met online.	CORRECT	REVISE
2.	The bus arrived late, meanwhile, the team warmed up.	CORRECT	REVISE
3.	The rain stopped; consequently the match resumed.	CORRECT	REVISE
4.	Maya saved the file; afterward, she shut down her laptop.	CORRECT	REVISE
5.	The recipe looked simple; still, it took an hour.	CORRECT	REVISE
6.	The first survey was brief; furthermore, its results were clear.	CORRECT	REVISE
7.	Because the gate was locked; instead, we used the side door.	CORRECT	REVISE
8.	The trail was muddy; nonetheless, the runners kept going.	CORRECT	REVISE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one of each in Part 2 and explain the clues you used.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

In Part 3, write one new CORRECT sentence and one new REVISE sentence using a conjunctive adverb to link ideas.

CORRECT _____

REVISE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one REVISE item, rewrite it correctly, and explain your change in one sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Clause Connection Check

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-10.W.7.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The library closed early; however, the study group met online.	**CORRECT**	Both clauses are independent, with a semicolon before however and a comma after it.
2	The bus arrived late, meanwhile, the team warmed up.	**REVISE**	A comma appears where a semicolon is needed before meanwhile.
3	The rain stopped; consequently the match resumed.	**REVISE**	A comma is needed after consequently.
4	Maya saved the file; afterward, she shut down her laptop.	**CORRECT**	Both clauses are independent, and afterward is set off correctly.
5	The recipe looked simple; still, it took an hour.	**CORRECT**	The semicolon and comma correctly set off still between two independent clauses.
6	The first survey was brief; furthermore, its results were clear.	**CORRECT**	Both clauses are independent, with correct punctuation around furthermore.
7	Because the gate was locked; instead, we used the side door.	**REVISE**	Because the gate was locked is dependent, so it cannot stand before the semicolon.
8	The trail was muddy; nonetheless, the runners kept going.	**CORRECT**	Both clauses are independent, and nonetheless follows a semicolon and a comma.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

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

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CORRECT**: The museum was crowded; however, we found a quiet room.
- **REVISE**: The camera battery died; consequently we missed the last shot.

Challenge: The bus arrived late; meanwhile, the team warmed up. I changed the comma before “meanwhile” to a semicolon to separate two independent clauses.

For Part 2, students should identify the clause boundary and the punctuation around the conjunctive adverb. For example, item 1 has two independent clauses and both required marks, while item 3 lacks a comma after consequently.