Ready for Print?

Sort sentence boundaries, explain your choices, and edit with a reference.

10.2.W.4 "Students will routinely and recursively use resources to edit for grammar, usage, mechanics, and format in order to finalize drafts for publication."

NAME _____ DATE _____

READY TO PUBLISH

Two complete thoughts are separated by a period, connected with a semicolon, or joined with a comma and a word such as and or but.

Owls nested nearby; foxes stayed hidden.

NEEDS AN EDIT

Two complete thoughts run together with no punctuation or are joined by only a comma. Edit the boundary before publication.

Rain soaked the tent, our maps curled.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle READY or EDIT for each item; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how its sentence boundary helped you decide.

1. The mural dried overnight; the painter removed the tape. READY EDIT

2. The library closed at six, but Maya finished her research. READY EDIT

3. The battery died, the screen went dark. READY EDIT

4. The bus arrived late the players missed warm-ups. READY EDIT

5. The editor checked the facts. The article went online. READY EDIT

6. The bell rang, everyone took a seat. READY EDIT

7. The clouds cleared, and the pilots saw the runway. READY EDIT

8. The recipe was missing a step the cookies burned. READY EDIT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how its sentence boundary helped you decide.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For Part 3, write one new READY example and one new EDIT example.

READY _____

EDIT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one EDIT item and check a grammar reference for the rule about joining complete thoughts. Write the source title, state the rule in your own words, and revise the item so it is ready for publication.

ANSWER KEY # Ready for Print?

GRADE 10 · 10.2.W.4

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The mural dried overnight; the painter removed the tape.	**READY**	A semicolon connects two complete thoughts.
2	The library closed at six, but Maya finished her research.	**READY**	A comma and but join two complete thoughts.
3	The battery died, the screen went dark.	**EDIT**	A comma alone joins two complete thoughts.
4	The bus arrived late the players missed warm-ups.	**EDIT**	Two complete thoughts run together without punctuation.
5	The editor checked the facts. The article went online.	**READY**	A period separates the complete thoughts into two sentences.
6	The bell rang, everyone took a seat.	**EDIT**	A comma alone joins two complete thoughts.
7	The clouds cleared, and the pilots saw the runway.	**READY**	A comma and and join two complete thoughts.
8	The recipe was missing a step the cookies burned.	**EDIT**	Two complete thoughts run together without punctuation.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

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

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **READY**: The dancers bowed; the judges applauded.
- **EDIT**: The train stopped, the passengers stood.

Challenge: Source: The Elements of Style, Rule 5. Rule: A comma alone cannot join two complete sentences. Revised item 3: The battery died, so the screen went dark.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 1 uses a semicolon between complete thoughts, while item 3 joins them with only a comma. Accept other explanations that correctly identify the boundary in one READY item and one EDIT item.