List Comma Check

Sort sentences by their list commas.

4.5.W.7 "Students will use commas in greetings and closings in letters and emails, to separate individual words in a series, and to indicate dialogue."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMMAS IN PLACE

Use commas to separate things in a list of three or more. Put a comma after each thing except the last one.

Tara packed pencils, crayons, and markers.

ONE COMMA MISSING

This list needs one more comma to separate its things.

Ben spotted ants, bees and flies.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle READY or MISSING for each sentence, then pick two items and explain how you knew.

1.	Lena bought apples, pears, and plums.	READY MISSING
2.	The band played drums, flutes, and horns.	READY MISSING
3.	Omar needs tape, glue and scissors.	READY MISSING
4.	Our garden has beans, peas, and carrots.	READY MISSING
5.	The trail crossed hills, fields and streams.	READY MISSING
6.	Mia wore boots, gloves and a scarf.	READY MISSING
7.	The box holds shells, rocks, and coins.	READY MISSING
8.	Dad washed plates, bowls, and cups.	READY MISSING

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new READY sentence and one new MISSING sentence, with exactly one comma missing.

READY _____

MISSING _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your MISSING sentence with the comma added, then explain where you put it.

ANSWER KEY

List Comma Check

GRADE 4 · 4.5.W.7

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Lena bought apples, pears, and plums.	**READY**	Commas separate all three items.
2	The band played drums, flutes, and horns.	**READY**	Commas separate all three items.
3	Omar needs tape, glue and scissors.	**MISSING**	A comma is missing after glue.
4	Our garden has beans, peas, and carrots.	**READY**	Commas separate all three items.
5	The trail crossed hills, fields and streams.	**MISSING**	A comma is missing after fields.
6	Mia wore boots, gloves and a scarf.	**MISSING**	A comma is missing after gloves.
7	The box holds shells, rocks, and coins.	**READY**	Commas separate all three items.
8	Dad washed plates, bowls, and cups.	**READY**	Commas separate all three items.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **READY**: Nora stacked books, folders, and papers.
- **MISSING**: The chef chopped onions, peppers and tomatoes.

Challenge: The chef chopped onions, peppers, and tomatoes. I added a comma after peppers.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify commas separating the three list items or name the spot where a comma is missing. In Part 3, the MISSING sentence should need exactly one comma.