Comma Check

Sort sentences by how they set off an extra thought.

9.5.W.7 "Students will use commas to set off simple parenthetical elements."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FRAMED

An extra thought interrupts the sentence. A comma on each side sets it off, and the sentence still works if you remove it.

The telescope, to my surprise, fit inside the suitcase.

UNFRAMED

An extra thought interrupts the sentence, but one or both commas are missing. Add the missing comma or commas to set it off.

The kettle, in my opinion boiled too slowly.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle FRAMED or UNFRAMED for each sentence; for Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how its commas led to your choice.

1.	The debate, in my view, raised a new question.	FRAMED UNFRAMED
2.	The trail, however, was closed after the storm.	FRAMED UNFRAMED
3.	Our team, for example practiced before sunrise.	FRAMED UNFRAMED
4.	The novel, in fact, ends with a letter.	FRAMED UNFRAMED
5.	The sketch of course, belongs in the exhibit.	FRAMED UNFRAMED
6.	The bus, by the way arrived early.	FRAMED UNFRAMED
7.	The recipe, as you know, needs fresh basil.	FRAMED UNFRAMED
8.	The interview, I think, revealed a problem.	FRAMED UNFRAMED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how its commas led to your choice.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two new sentences with an extra thought in the middle: one FRAMED sentence with both commas and one UNFRAMED sentence with exactly one needed comma missing.

FRAMED _____

UNFRAMED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one UNFRAMED item, add its missing comma, then write the sentence again without the extra thought.

ANSWER KEY

Comma Check

GRADE 9 · 9.5.W.7

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The debate, in my view, raised a new question.	**FRAMED**	Commas set off the extra thought in my view.
2	The trail, however, was closed after the storm.	**FRAMED**	Commas set off the extra thought however.
3	Our team, for example practiced before sunrise.	**UNFRAMED**	A comma is missing after for example.
4	The novel, in fact, ends with a letter.	**FRAMED**	Commas set off the extra thought in fact.
5	The sketch of course, belongs in the exhibit.	**UNFRAMED**	A comma is missing before of course.
6	The bus, by the way arrived early.	**UNFRAMED**	A comma is missing after by the way.
7	The recipe, as you know, needs fresh basil.	**FRAMED**	Commas set off the extra thought as you know.
8	The interview, I think, revealed a problem.	**FRAMED**	Commas set off the extra thought I think.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how its commas led to your choice.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FRAMED**: The lantern, I believe, lit the porch.
- **UNFRAMED**: The violin, to be honest sounded sharp.

Challenge: Our team, for example, practiced before sunrise. Our team practiced before sunrise.

For Part 2, students might explain that item 2 is FRAMED because however has a comma on each side, while item 3 is UNFRAMED because for example lacks a closing comma. Accept other explanations that correctly identify the comma placement.