Comma Detectives

Two jobs for commas

2.L.2.c "Use commas in greetings and closings of letters. Use commas to separate single words in a series. Use commas in compound sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

LETTER

A comma comes after the greeting or closing of a letter. It sits at the end of the line.

Hello Zola,

LIST

Commas separate single words in a list of three or more.

Rice, beans, corn.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle LETTER or LIST for each item, then choose two items and write how each comma helped you decide.

1. Dear Grandma, — LETTER / LIST
2. I packed socks, boots, and mittens. — LETTER / LIST
3. We saw frogs, ducks, and fish. — LETTER / LIST
4. Love, — LETTER / LIST
5. Dear Coach, — LETTER / LIST
6. I like pears, plums, and grapes. — LETTER / LIST
7. Your pal, — LETTER / LIST
8. She has pens, crayons, and chalk. — LETTER / LIST

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 letter greeting or closing with a comma, and one new list of three single words with commas.

LETTER _____

LIST _____

CHALLENGE

Write a short letter with a greeting, a list of three single words in a sentence, and a closing; put commas in all three places.

ANSWER KEY # Comma Detectives

GRADE 2 · 2.L.2.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Dear Grandma,	**LETTER**	The comma ends a letter greeting.
2	I packed socks, boots, and mittens.	**LIST**	The commas separate three single words in a list.
3	We saw frogs, ducks, and fish.	**LIST**	The commas separate three single words in a list.
4	Love,	**LETTER**	The comma ends a letter closing.
5	Dear Coach,	**LETTER**	The comma ends a letter greeting.
6	I like pears, plums, and grapes.	**LIST**	The commas separate three single words in a list.
7	Your pal,	**LETTER**	The comma ends a letter closing.
8	She has pens, crayons, and chalk.	**LIST**	The commas separate three single words in a list.

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)

- **LETTER**: Hi Maya,
- **LIST**: Maps, keys, tape.

Challenge: Dear Eli, I packed apples, bananas, and oranges. Love, Ada

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a greeting or closing at the end of a line, or single words separated in a list. The challenge sample has a comma in the greeting, commas in the list, and a comma in the closing.