Dialogue Detectives

Sort sentences by how they show spoken words.

4.L.2.c "Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue and quotations from a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

READY TO READ

When the speaker comes first, put a comma after the speaking word. Put quotation marks around the words the person says.

Quinn replied, "Purple clouds drift."

NEEDS FIXING

A sentence needs fixing if it is missing the comma after the speaking word or the quotation marks around the spoken words.

Tariq announced "Comets streak across space."

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered sentence, circle READY or FIX.

1.	1. Maya said, "The garden needs water."	READY FIX
2.	2. Dad asked, "Where is my hat?"	READY FIX
3.	3. Leo said "The bus is here."	READY FIX
4.	4. Iris called, "Watch the puppy!"	READY FIX
5.	5. Jamal said, The door is open.	READY FIX
6.	6. Rosa asked "Can you reach the shelf?"	READY FIX
7.	7. The coach said, "Please line up."	READY FIX
8.	8. Ava whispered, "I found a shell."	READY FIX

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

Part 2 PROVE IT: Pick two numbered items and explain how you knew where each belonged. Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new READY sentence and one new FIX sentence.

READY _____

FIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a FIX sentence that is missing both the comma and the quotation marks, then rewrite it as READY.

ANSWER KEY

Dialogue Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.L.2.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. Maya said, “The garden needs water.”	**READY**	A comma follows said, and quotation marks surround the spoken words.
2	2. Dad asked, “Where is my hat?”	**READY**	A comma follows asked, and quotation marks surround the spoken question.
3	3. Leo said “The bus is here.”	**FIX**	The comma after said is missing.
4	4. Iris called, “Watch the puppy!”	**READY**	A comma follows called, and quotation marks surround the spoken words.
5	5. Jamal said, The door is open.	**FIX**	Quotation marks around the spoken words are missing.
6	6. Rosa asked “Can you reach the shelf?”	**FIX**	The comma after asked is missing.
7	7. The coach said, “Please line up.”	**READY**	A comma follows said, and quotation marks surround the spoken words.
8	8. Ava whispered, “I found a shell.”	**READY**	A comma follows whispered, and quotation marks surround the spoken words.

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**: Ben said, “I saw a turtle.”
- **FIX**: Kim asked “Is the pool open?”

Challenge: FIX: Tess said I baked bread. READY: Tess said, “I baked bread.”

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the comma and quotation marks in a READY item or name what is missing from a FIX item.