Details in Place

Notice how the position of a phrase or clause shapes a sentence.

7.L.1.c "Place phrases and clauses within a sentence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two opening phrases, which have no subject-verb pair, and circle two opening clauses, which do have a subject and verb. Draw an arrow from each marked group to the main clause it adds detail to.

Saturday at the Repair Station

1. On Saturday morning, Maya helped at a free bicycle repair station in the library courtyard. At the repair table, she sorted loose bolts into labeled jars. Before the doors opened, Mr. Lee tested every tire pump. Maya placed a cardboard sign beside the gate so riders could find the station. Soon, a line of bicycles stretched across the courtyard. One rider pushed a bike with a squeaky wheel, and another carried a helmet with a cracked strap.

2. When the first rider reached the table, Maya spotted a chain that had slipped off the rear gears. Mr. Lee held the bike steady while Maya lifted the chain back into place. With a small brush, she cleared gritty dust from the rear gears. The chain moved smoothly after Maya adjusted the rear wheel. As the rider pedaled across the courtyard, Maya listened for a click or scrape. The gears stayed quiet, but the back tire needed more air. Mr. Lee handed the rider a pump.

3. Near the gate, another rider asked about the cracked helmet strap. Because a damaged strap might not hold the helmet securely, Mr. Lee advised the rider to replace it. Maya wrote the advice on a note and handed it to the rider. After the last bike rolled away, the volunteers counted the parts they had used. They put the remaining bolts back into their jars so next week's crew could find them. By noon, the courtyard was empty, and the repair table was clean.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Move “At the repair table” to the end of its sentence. Write the revised sentence.

2. Move “Before the doors opened” to the end of its sentence. Write the revised sentence.

3. In the sentence about the slipped chain, which noun must “that had slipped off the rear gears” follow? Explain why.

4. Move “after Maya adjusted the rear wheel” to the beginning of its sentence. Write the revised sentence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about caring for an object other than a bicycle. Begin one sentence with a time clause, place a descriptive phrase immediately after the noun it describes in another, and end the third with a time clause.

ANSWER KEY

Details in Place

GRADE 7 · 7.L.1.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two opening phrases, which have no subject-verb pair, and circle two opening clauses, which do have a subject and verb. Draw an arrow from each marked group to the main clause it adds detail to. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Move "At the repair table" to the end of its sentence. Write the revised sentence.	**She sorted loose bolts into labeled jars at the repair table.**
2	Move "Before the doors opened" to the end of its sentence. Write the revised sentence.	**Mr. Lee tested every tire pump before the doors opened.**
3	In the sentence about the slipped chain, which noun must "that had slipped off the rear gears" follow? Explain why.	**It must follow "chain" because the clause identifies what slipped off the rear gears.**
4	Move "after Maya adjusted the rear wheel" to the beginning of its sentence. Write the revised sentence.	**After Maya adjusted the rear wheel, the chain moved smoothly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the rain stopped, I carried my muddy boots inside. My boots, covered in brown mud, left marks on the floor. I scrubbed the soles when I found a brush.

Accept other grammatical placements that preserve each sentence's meaning. In Part 3, check that the opening and ending time clauses each contain a subject and verb, and that the descriptive phrase sits immediately after its noun.