Sentence Junction

Choose the mark that joins two complete thoughts.

7.L.2.b "Use commas and semicolons appropriately in compound and complex sentence structure."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMMA

Use a comma before a joining word such as and, but, or so when it connects two complete thoughts.

The violin squeaked, but the audience stayed quiet.

SEMICOLON

Use a semicolon to connect two complete thoughts when there is no joining word between them.

The telescope tilted; the moon vanished behind a cloud.

1 SORT

8 items

For each blank, circle COMMA or SEMICOLON, then choose two items and explain how you knew which mark fit.

1. 1. The bakery closed ____ but the market remained open. COMMA SEMICOLON

2. 2. A storm approached ____ the campers packed their tents. COMMA SEMICOLON

3. 3. Maya checked the map ____ Luis marked the route. COMMA SEMICOLON

4. 4. The dog barked ____ and the cat hid under the sofa. COMMA SEMICOLON

5. 5. I saved the file ____ so my work was safe. COMMA SEMICOLON

6. 6. The bell rang ____ students hurried to class. COMMA SEMICOLON

7. 7. The team practiced early ____ yet the game was postponed. COMMA SEMICOLON

8. 8. Nina wanted the blue scarf ____ but her brother chose the red one. COMMA SEMICOLON

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 sentence that joins two complete thoughts with a comma and a joining word, and one that joins them with a semicolon.

COMMA _____

SEMICOLON _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence mini-story: use a comma with a joining word in the first sentence and a semicolon in the second, then underline both marks.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Junction

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The bakery closed ___ but the market remained open.	**COMMA**	But joins two complete thoughts.
2	2. A storm approached ___ the campers packed their tents.	**SEMICOLON**	Two complete thoughts have no joining word.
3	3. Maya checked the map ___ Luis marked the route.	**SEMICOLON**	Two complete thoughts have no joining word.
4	4. The dog barked ___ and the cat hid under the sofa.	**COMMA**	And joins two complete thoughts.
5	5. I saved the file ___ so my work was safe.	**COMMA**	So joins two complete thoughts.
6	6. The bell rang ___ students hurried to class.	**SEMICOLON**	Two complete thoughts have no joining word.
7	7. The team practiced early ___ yet the game was postponed.	**COMMA**	Yet joins two complete thoughts.
8	8. Nina wanted the blue scarf ___ but her brother chose the red one.	**COMMA**	But joins two complete thoughts.

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)

- **COMMA**: The river rose, so the bridge was closed.
- **SEMICOLON**: My pencil broke; I borrowed another.

Challenge: The lights went out, so Jada found a flashlight. She opened the door; her family followed her outside.

For the explanations, students should identify the two complete thoughts and note whether a joining word follows the blank. Accept other valid sentences in Part 3 and the challenge.