Measure the Mark

Sort measurements with and without hyphens.

9-10.L.2.c "Use hyphens, dashes, and other punctuation correctly."

NAME _____ DATE _____

HYPHENATED MEASURE

When a number and a singular unit work together before a noun, join them with a hyphen. Keep the unit singular even when the number is greater than one.

We followed a six-mile trail.

MEASURE WITHOUT A HYPHEN

When a number and a plural unit follow a verb to state a measurement, do not join them with a hyphen.

The trail runs six miles.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle HYPHEN or PLAIN for each item; for Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1. a three-hour rehearsal — HYPHEN / PLAIN

2. an eight-page booklet — HYPHEN / PLAIN

3. The fence stands five feet tall. — HYPHEN / PLAIN

4. a four-day festival — HYPHEN / PLAIN

5. The class lasts forty minutes. — HYPHEN / PLAIN

6. The rope measures twelve meters. — HYPHEN / PLAIN

7. a nine-inch ribbon — HYPHEN / PLAIN

8. The trip takes two weeks. — HYPHEN / PLAIN

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 with a hyphenated number-and-unit measure before a noun, then one new sentence with a number and plural unit after a verb and no hyphen.

HYPHEN _____

PLAIN _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same object: first use a hyphenated number-and-unit measure before its noun, then state that measurement after a verb without a hyphen.

ANSWER KEY # Measure the Mark

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	a three-hour rehearsal	**HYPHEN**	The number and singular unit work together before rehearsal.
2	an eight-page booklet	**HYPHEN**	The number and singular unit work together before booklet.
3	The fence stands five feet tall.	**PLAIN**	The number and plural unit follow the verb stands.
4	a four-day festival	**HYPHEN**	The number and singular unit work together before festival.
5	The class lasts forty minutes.	**PLAIN**	The number and plural unit follow the verb lasts.
6	The rope measures twelve meters.	**PLAIN**	The number and plural unit follow the verb measures.
7	a nine-inch ribbon	**HYPHEN**	The number and singular unit work together before ribbon.
8	The trip takes two weeks.	**PLAIN**	The number and plural unit follow the verb takes.

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)

- **HYPHEN**: We planned a seven-day hike.
- **PLAIN**: The meeting lasts thirty minutes.

Challenge: I packed a five-pound bag. The bag weighs five pounds.

Part 2 explanations should identify whether the measurement comes before a noun or follows a verb. Check that hyphenated measures use a singular unit and plain measures use a plural unit.