

Dialogue Detectives

Sort dialogue sentences by their quotation marks and ending punctuation.

5.11.D.x "italics and underlining for titles and emphasis and punctuation marks, including quotation marks in dialogue and commas in compound and complex sentences; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT DIALOGUE

The spoken words are inside quotation marks, and the ending punctuation is in the right place.

"Clouds drift slowly," murmured Papi.

REVISE DIALOGUE

The quotation marks or ending punctuation need to be fixed.

"My backpack is heavy" said Ren.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or REVISE for each sentence, then choose two items and explain how you knew where each one belongs.

1. "Please close the gate," said Dad.

CORRECT

REVISE

2. "I cannot find my ruler," said Tessa.

CORRECT

REVISE

3. "Did the rain stop"? asked Ben.

CORRECT

REVISE

4. "Turn left at the bridge," called Mr. Ruiz.

CORRECT

REVISE

5. "Our team practiced hard"! said Zoe.

CORRECT

REVISE

6. "The cookies smell sweet," said Aunt May.

CORRECT

REVISE

7. "I finished my poster" said Kai.

CORRECT

REVISE

8. "Are you coming with us?" asked Imani.

CORRECT

REVISE

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 dialogue sentence for CORRECT and one new dialogue sentence for REVISE. Label each sentence.

CORRECT _____

REVISE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-line conversation between two different speakers. Use correct quotation marks and ending punctuation in both lines.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	"Please close the gate," said Dad.	CORRECT	The comma is inside the closing quotation mark before the dialogue tag.
2	"I cannot find my ruler," said Tessa.	CORRECT	The spoken words are in quotation marks, and the comma is placed correctly.
3	"Did the rain stop"? asked Ben.	REVISE	The question mark belongs inside the closing quotation mark.
4	"Turn left at the bridge," called Mr. Ruiz.	CORRECT	The comma is inside the quotation mark before the dialogue tag.
5	"Our team practiced hard"! said Zoe.	REVISE	The exclamation mark belongs inside the closing quotation mark.
6	"The cookies smell sweet," said Aunt May.	CORRECT	The quotation marks and comma are used correctly.
7	"I finished my poster" said Kai.	REVISE	A comma is needed inside the quotation mark before said Kai.
8	"Are you coming with us?" asked Imani.	CORRECT	The question mark is inside the quotation mark, and the dialogue tag is correct.

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)

- **CORRECT:** "The lantern is glowing," said Nina.
- **REVISE:** "We should hurry" said Max.

Challenge: "Save me a seat," said Leo. "Which row?" asked Suri.

For Part 2, students should name a specific clue, such as a comma, question mark, or exclamation mark inside the quotation marks. For Part 3, accept any original examples that accurately show correct dialogue and dialogue needing revision.