

Dialogue Detectives

Spot dialogue punctuation that is ready or needs a fix.

4.LU.2.B "Use commas and quotation marks to indicate dialogue in writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PUNCTUATED CORRECTLY

These sentences use quotation marks around spoken words. They also use a comma before the opening quotation mark when a speaker tag comes first.

Omar asked, "Will the train arrive soon?"

NEEDS A FIX

These sentences are missing quotation marks or a needed comma. Fix the dialogue punctuation before using the sentence in writing.

My sister said "The cookies are warm."

1 SORT

8 items

Circle READY or FIX IT for each sentence, then choose two items and explain what punctuation helped you decide.

1. Nina said, "My kite is blue."

READY

FIX IT

2. "Please save me a seat," called Ben.

READY

FIX IT

3. Dad said, Put your helmet on.

READY

FIX IT

4. "I can solve this puzzle," said Lila.

READY

FIX IT

5. Mr. Chen asked "Who watered the plants?"

READY

FIX IT

6. "Watch the paint dry" said Inez.

READY

FIX IT

7. Sam whispered, "The baby is sleeping."

READY

FIX IT

8. "Our team won!" shouted Rosa.

READY

FIX IT

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 READY dialogue sentence and one FIX IT dialogue sentence.

READY _____

FIX IT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-line conversation between two speakers. Use quotation marks around each speaker's words and a comma before each opening quotation mark.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Nina said, "My kite is blue."	READY	It has a comma before the opening quotation mark and quotation marks around the spoken words.
2	"Please save me a seat," called Ben.	READY	The spoken words are inside quotation marks, and the comma is correctly inside the closing quotation mark.
3	Dad said, Put your helmet on.	FIX IT	The spoken words need quotation marks.
4	"I can solve this puzzle," said Lila.	READY	The dialogue is in quotation marks, and the comma is correctly placed inside the closing quotation mark.
5	Mr. Chen asked "Who watered the plants?"	FIX IT	A comma is needed before the opening quotation mark.
6	"Watch the paint dry" said Inez.	FIX IT	A comma is needed after the spoken words before the speaker tag.
7	Sam whispered, "The baby is sleeping."	READY	It has a comma before the opening quotation mark and quotation marks around the spoken words.
8	"Our team won!" shouted Rosa.	READY	The spoken words are inside quotation marks, and the exclamation point is correctly inside the closing quotation mark.

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:** Tori said, "The library is open."
- **FIX IT:** Tori said "The library is open."

Challenge: Maya said, "I found the map." Leo replied, "Let's follow it."

READY items are 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8. FIX IT items are 3, 5, and 6. Accept Part 2 explanations that correctly name quotation marks, a comma before dialogue, or a missing comma after dialogue before a speaker tag.