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 _____

READY

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?"

FIX IT

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.

ANSWER KEY

Dialogue Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.LU.2.B

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."

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.