

Comma Garden Crew

Find how commas separate complete thoughts in a model text.

5.LU.2.A "Use commas correctly in compound sentences."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each compound sentence, and circle the comma that joins its two complete thoughts. Notice where the comma comes before a joining word.

Community Garden Day

- ① On Saturday, Maya joined her neighbors at the community garden. The soil was dry, so the group carried water from a nearby spigot. Maya planted bean seeds, and her brother pressed the soil around them. A robin hopped beside the path, but it flew away when the wheelbarrow rattled. By noon, the beds looked tidy and ready for spring.
- ② The next week, the garden club built a small sign for each bed. Luis painted tomatoes on one sign, and Nia added carrots to another. The paint dried slowly, yet the children waited without complaint. A storm was moving closer, so they carried the signs into the tool shed. Later, they returned and placed the signs beside the seedlings.
- ③ At the end of the month, the gardeners shared vegetables at a sidewalk table. Maya counted the beans, and Luis filled small paper bags. One family chose lettuce, but another family picked radishes. The club had extra herbs, so Nia wrote a recipe card for visitors. The garden gave people fresh food, and it also gave neighbors a reason to work together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Copy the compound sentence in paragraph 1 that uses so. Explain why it needs a comma.

- 2 A student copied this sentence without its comma: One family chose lettuce but another family picked radishes. Write the sentence correctly.

- 3 In the sentence about Luis and Nia in paragraph 2, write the two complete thoughts that are joined by and.

- 4 In paragraph 1, why is there no comma between tidy and ready in the last sentence?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence mini-scene about a job you could do outdoors. Include two compound sentences that use a comma before and, but, or, so, or yet.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each compound sentence, and circle the comma that joins its two complete thoughts. Notice where the comma comes before a joining word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the compound sentence in paragraph 1 that uses so. Explain why it needs a comma.	The soil was dry, so the group carried water from a nearby spigot. The comma separates two complete thoughts joined by so.
2	A student copied this sentence without its comma: One family chose lettuce but another family picked radishes. Write the sentence correctly.	One family chose lettuce, but another family picked radishes.
3	In the sentence about Luis and Nia in paragraph 2, write the two complete thoughts that are joined by and.	Luis painted tomatoes on one sign. Nia added carrots to another.
4	In paragraph 1, why is there no comma between tidy and ready in the last sentence?	Tidy and ready are describing words, not two complete thoughts.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I packed gloves and a water bottle for the park cleanup. I picked up bottles, and my cousin sorted cans. The wind grew stronger, so we put the papers in a box.

Accept correctly marked compound sentences with commas before coordinating conjunctions that join two complete thoughts. For the open task, accept any three-sentence scene with at least two correctly punctuated compound sentences.