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.

ANSWER KEY

Comma Garden Crew

GRADE 5 · 5.LU.2.A

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.