Sentence Signal Sort

Sort, prove, and create.

6.LU.2.A "Construct complete sentences with appropriate punctuation, avoiding comma splices and run-ons in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECTLY PUNCTUATED

A complete thought ends with correct punctuation. When two complete thoughts are together, separate them with a period or semicolon, or use a comma plus a coordinating conjunction such as and, but, or so.

The lantern flickered. We waited quietly.

RUN-ON OR COMMA SPLICE

A run-on happens when two complete thoughts are pushed together without the right punctuation. A comma alone cannot join two complete thoughts.

Rain flooded the field, campers packed their tents.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which punctuation clues helped you sort them.

1.	The oven beeped, I took out the muffins.	CORRECT / RUN-ON
2.	My cousin practices violin every evening.	CORRECT / RUN-ON
3.	The path was icy, so we walked slowly.	CORRECT / RUN-ON
4.	Our bus arrived late everyone missed breakfast.	CORRECT / RUN-ON
5.	I finished the puzzle; my brother started a comic.	CORRECT / RUN-ON
6.	The baby yawned she needed a nap.	CORRECT / RUN-ON
7.	The museum closed at five.	CORRECT / RUN-ON
8.	The sky turned orange, the bats came out.	CORRECT / RUN-ON

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 correctly punctuated sentence and one run-on or comma splice.

CORRECT _____

RUN-ON _____

CHALLENGE

Write a run-on with two complete thoughts, then rewrite it correctly in two different ways, using a period in one version and a comma plus a coordinating conjunction in the other.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Signal Sort

GRADE 6 · 6.LU.2.A

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The oven beeped, I took out the muffins.	**RUN-ON**	This comma splice joins two complete thoughts with only a comma.
2	My cousin practices violin every evening.	**CORRECT**	This is one complete thought with correct ending punctuation.
3	The path was icy, so we walked slowly.	**CORRECT**	A comma and the coordinating conjunction so correctly join two complete thoughts.
4	Our bus arrived late everyone missed breakfast.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete thoughts are pushed together with no punctuation.
5	I finished the puzzle; my brother started a comic.	**CORRECT**	A semicolon correctly separates two related complete thoughts.
6	The baby yawned she needed a nap.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete thoughts are missing punctuation between them.
7	The museum closed at five.	**CORRECT**	This is one complete thought with correct ending punctuation.
8	The sky turned orange, the bats came out.	**RUN-ON**	This comma splice joins two complete thoughts with only a comma.

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**: Dalia drew a map for the treasure hunt.
- **RUN-ON**: The referee blew the whistle, both teams hurried to the bench.

Challenge: Run-on: The robot rolled forward it bumped into a wall. Period: The robot rolled forward. It bumped into a wall. Comma plus conjunction: The robot rolled forward, and it bumped into a wall.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should identify whether each selected item has one complete thought or two complete thoughts and name the punctuation used or missing. Accept varied original responses when they match the category definitions.