Sentence Signal

Spot sentences that are correctly joined and punctuated.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE AND CORRECT

A correct sentence has a complete thought. If it has two complete thoughts, it uses a period, semicolon, or comma plus a coordinating conjunction to join them.

The parrot copied a whistle after lunch.

RUN-ON SENTENCE

A run-on joins two complete thoughts without the right punctuation. A comma by itself cannot join two complete thoughts.

Snow covered the meadow, the sledders stayed home.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle CORRECT or RUN-ON, then choose two items and explain which punctuation or sentence structure clue helped you decide.

1. The lantern glowed in the fog. CORRECT RUN-ON

2. Maya packed her sketchbook, she forgot her pencils. CORRECT RUN-ON

3. The bell rang everyone hurried inside. CORRECT RUN-ON

4. We can meet after practice. CORRECT RUN-ON

5. My brother washed the dishes, and I dried them. CORRECT RUN-ON

6. The trail was muddy we wore boots. CORRECT RUN-ON

7. Our team cheered when the final whistle blew. CORRECT RUN-ON

8. I will email the coach tonight. 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 new CORRECT sentence and one new RUN-ON sentence.

CORRECT _____

RUN-ON _____

CHALLENGE

Create a run-on sentence, then revise it into a correct sentence by using either a period or a comma plus a coordinating conjunction.

ANSWER KEY # Sentence Signal

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The lantern glowed in the fog.	**CORRECT**	One complete thought with correct end punctuation.
2	Maya packed her sketchbook, she forgot her pencils.	**RUN-ON**	A comma splice joins two complete thoughts with only a comma.
3	The bell rang everyone hurried inside.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete thoughts are fused without punctuation.
4	We can meet after practice.	**CORRECT**	One complete thought with correct end punctuation.
5	My brother washed the dishes, and I dried them.	**CORRECT**	Two complete thoughts are correctly joined with a comma and coordinating conjunction.
6	The trail was muddy we wore boots.	**RUN-ON**	Two complete thoughts are fused without punctuation.
7	Our team cheered when the final whistle blew.	**CORRECT**	This is a complete sentence with correct punctuation.
8	I will email the coach tonight.	**CORRECT**	One complete thought with correct end punctuation.

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**: The violinist tuned her instrument before the concert.
- **RUN-ON**: The river rose overnight, several roads closed.

Challenge: Run-on: The museum opened early, visitors formed a line. Revision: The museum opened early, and visitors formed a line.

Correct: 1, 4, 5, 7, 8. Run-on: 2, 3, 6. For Part 2, students should point to correct end punctuation or correct clause joining, or identify a comma splice or missing punctuation between complete thoughts.