

Sentence Join Detectives

Sort sentence joins, then prove your choices.

7.LU "The student will use the conventions of Standard English when speaking and writing, differentiating between contexts that call for formal English and situations where informal discourse is more appropriate. Grammar Construct simple..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECTLY JOINED SENTENCE

A complete sentence has a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. When two complete thoughts are joined, use a period, a semicolon, or a comma plus a joining word.

After the lantern flickered, the campers packed their maps.

RUN-ON SENTENCE

A run-on joins complete thoughts without correct punctuation or a joining word. A comma by itself cannot join two complete thoughts.

The parade ended we walked home.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or RUN-ON for each sentence, then choose two items and explain what proves each choice.

1. The museum opened early, so we entered before noon.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

2. Jordan practiced the trumpet after dinner.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

3. The rain stopped the field remained muddy.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

4. Because the trail was steep, Maya paused often.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

5. I finished my model, it is on the table.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

6. The bell rang, everyone hurried to class.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

7. Our team will present its plan tomorrow.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

8. Luis wanted to leave, but his sister needed help.

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 correctly joined sentence and one new run-on sentence. Label each one.

CORRECT _____

RUN-ON _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite one run-on from Part 1 as two correctly punctuated sentences.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The museum opened early, so we entered before noon.	CORRECT	Two complete thoughts are joined with a comma and the joining word so.
2	Jordan practiced the trumpet after dinner.	CORRECT	This is one complete simple sentence.
3	The rain stopped the field remained muddy.	RUN-ON	Two complete thoughts are fused without punctuation or a joining word.
4	Because the trail was steep, Maya paused often.	CORRECT	The dependent clause is correctly followed by a comma and a complete thought.
5	I finished my model, it is on the table.	RUN-ON	A comma alone joins two complete thoughts, creating a comma splice.
6	The bell rang, everyone hurried to class.	RUN-ON	A comma alone joins two complete thoughts, creating a comma splice.
7	Our team will present its plan tomorrow.	CORRECT	This is one complete simple sentence.
8	Luis wanted to leave, but his sister needed help.	CORRECT	Two complete thoughts are joined with a comma and the joining word but.

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 librarian shelved the novels while the students searched quietly.
- **RUN-ON:** The recipe smelled delicious we served it at lunch.

Challenge: The rain stopped. The field remained muddy.

CORRECT: 1, 2, 4, 7, 8. **RUN-ON:** 3 is fused, and 5 and 6 are comma splices. In Part 2, students should identify the complete thoughts and explain the punctuation or missing punctuation.