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.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Join Detectives

GRADE 7 · 7.LU

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.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.