Phrase Placement Patrol

Spot introductory phrases that attach clearly.

8.LU.1.D "Arrange phrases and clauses within a sentence to improve meaning reader/listener interest, and style in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR PLACEMENT

The introductory phrase clearly describes the subject that comes next. The reader knows who or what is doing the action.

At sunrise, fishermen launched their boats.

MISPLACED PLACEMENT

The introductory phrase seems to describe the wrong subject. This creates a confusing or illogical meaning.

Searching for a signal, the mountain blocked our phones.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle CLEAR or MISPLACED, then choose two items and explain how the introductory phrase does or does not describe the sentence's subject.

1.	After rehearsal, Devon packed the costumes.	CLEAR MISPLACED
2.	Hearing the alarm, the students left the building.	CLEAR MISPLACED
3.	While hiking through the canyon, the waterfall surprised us.	CLEAR MISPLACED
4.	To avoid the rain, Lila carried an umbrella.	CLEAR MISPLACED
5.	After mixing the ingredients, the cake was baked for 30 minutes.	CLEAR MISPLACED
6.	Before entering the classroom, the homework was collected.	CLEAR MISPLACED
7.	At the science fair, Omar explained his model to the judges.	CLEAR MISPLACED
8.	After reading the article, the quiz seemed easier.	CLEAR MISPLACED

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 CLEAR sentence and one new MISPLACED sentence with introductory phrases.

CLEAR _____

MISPLACED _____

CHALLENGE

Write a MISPLACED sentence with an introductory phrase, then revise it so the phrase clearly describes the subject.

ANSWER KEY

Phrase Placement Patrol

GRADE 8 · 8.LU.1.D

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	After rehearsal, Devon packed the costumes.	**CLEAR**	Devon is the person who was at rehearsal.
2	Hearing the alarm, the students left the building.	**CLEAR**	The students heard the alarm.
3	While hiking through the canyon, the waterfall surprised us.	**MISPLACED**	The waterfall cannot hike through the canyon.
4	To avoid the rain, Lila carried an umbrella.	**CLEAR**	Lila wanted to avoid the rain.
5	After mixing the ingredients, the cake was baked for 30 minutes.	**MISPLACED**	The cake did not mix the ingredients.
6	Before entering the classroom, the homework was collected.	**MISPLACED**	The homework did not enter the classroom.
7	At the science fair, Omar explained his model to the judges.	**CLEAR**	Omar was at the science fair and explained the model.
8	After reading the article, the quiz seemed easier.	**MISPLACED**	The quiz did not read the article.

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)

- **CLEAR**: Before the concert began, the musicians tuned their instruments.
- **MISPLACED**: After practicing all week, the recital was performed on Friday.

Challenge: Misplaced: Before reaching the summit, the trail became steep. Revised: Before reaching the summit, the hikers found the trail steep.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept clear sentences when the introductory phrase logically describes the subject immediately after the comma. For misplaced sentences, students should identify the subject that incorrectly receives the action or description in the phrase.