

Sentence Signal Sort

Spot sentences that are correctly joined and sentences that run on.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

CORRECT SENTENCE

A correct sentence has a complete thought. When it joins two complete thoughts, it uses a period, a semicolon, or a comma plus a coordinating conjunction.

After rehearsal, the actors bowed, and the audience applauded.

RUN-ON SENTENCE

A run-on sentence joins complete thoughts without correct punctuation. It may have no punctuation or only a comma between the thoughts.

The lantern flickered it went dark before sunrise.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each sentence, then choose two sentences and explain why each belongs in its category.

1. Maya packed her sketchbook before the trip.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

2. The rain stopped, so we returned to the field.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

3. The gate was locked we waited outside.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

4. Jordan wanted tea, but he chose water instead.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

5. The tide rose quickly, the boats bumped against the dock.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

6. I finished my outline I started the first paragraph.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

7. Although the path was steep, the hikers kept climbing.

CORRECT

RUN-ON

8. Our team practiced late; the coach turned off the lights.

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

Write a run-on sentence, then revise it into a correct sentence using a semicolon.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Maya packed her sketchbook before the trip.	CORRECT	One complete thought with correct end punctuation.
2	The rain stopped, so we returned to the field.	CORRECT	Two complete thoughts are joined with a comma and the coordinating conjunction so.
3	The gate was locked we waited outside.	RUN-ON	Two complete thoughts are joined with no punctuation.
4	Jordan wanted tea, but he chose water instead.	CORRECT	Two complete thoughts are joined with a comma and the coordinating conjunction but.
5	The tide rose quickly, the boats bumped against the dock.	RUN-ON	A comma alone joins two complete thoughts, creating a comma splice.
6	I finished my outline I started the first paragraph.	RUN-ON	Two complete thoughts are joined with no punctuation.
7	Although the path was steep, the hikers kept climbing.	CORRECT	The dependent clause is correctly followed by a comma and a complete thought.
8	Our team practiced late; the coach turned off the lights.	CORRECT	A semicolon correctly joins two complete thoughts.

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:** Correct Sentence: The museum closed at five, and we caught the last bus home.
- **RUN-ON:** Run-On Sentence: The bell rang the hallway filled quickly.

Challenge: Run-On: The oven beeped, the cookies were ready. Revised: The oven beeped; the cookies were ready.

For Part 2, students should name the punctuation or missing punctuation that supports each choice. Accept different original examples if each matches its labeled category.