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.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Signal Sort

GRADE 8 · 8.LU.2.A

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.

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