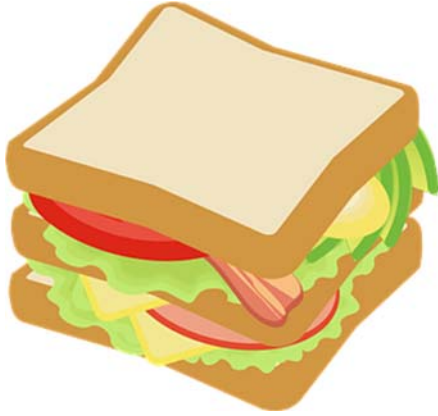


Name _____



Dramatic Pause Practice

Directions: Read the short play script below silently once to understand the tone and situation. As you read it aloud, identify **where a short pause** could make the moment clearer, funnier, or more dramatic. Mark each pause with a **slash (/)** on your copy of the script. Perform the script with your partner or group, using those pauses intentionally.

Mini Script: "The Suspicious Sandwich"

Characters:

Mia - cautious and curious

Toby - confident but clueless

Scene: A school cafeteria during lunch.

Mia: (whispering) Toby... what *is* that?

Toby: (grinning) It's my new invention. The Triple-Decker Mega Sandwich!

Mia: (concerned) Why is it... glowing?

Toby: (shrugs) Secret sauce. Found it in the back of the fridge.

Mia: The *back* of the fridge? You mean the part where leftovers go to... disappear?

Toby: Relax! I tested it on my dog.

Mia: (alarmed) And?!

Toby: He started glowing too.

Mia: You're *not* eating that, right?

Toby: (takes a bite, then freezes) Maybe... I should've added less sauce.

(Mia stares as Toby's lunch bag starts to glow.)

Comprehension & Reflection Questions

1. Which lines needed pauses to make the humor or tension stronger?
2. How did adding pauses change how the dialogue sounded aloud?
3. Why might dramatic pauses help listeners understand the story better?
4. Which character's dialogue relied most on timing for effect, Mia or Toby? Explain.