Clause Connections

Sort sentences by how their ideas connect.

8.LL.20.d "Construct simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence has two independent clauses and no dependent clause. The clauses can join with a semicolon or with a comma and a word such as and, but, or so.

The violin squeaked; the audience laughed.

COMPLEX SENTENCE

A complex sentence has one independent clause and at least one dependent clause. The dependent clause cannot stand alone, and a word such as because or although helps show how the ideas relate.

Although snow fell, the runners kept moving.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle COMPOUND or COMPLEX for each sentence, then choose two items and explain your choices by identifying the clauses and how they connect.

1.	The robot beeped, and its screen flashed.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
2.	The gate was locked; our team found another entrance.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
3.	Because the soil was dry, Nia watered the seedlings.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
4.	The recipe looked simple, yet its steps took hours.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
5.	I saved the receipt so that I could return the jacket.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
6.	When the lights dimmed, the musicians began playing.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
7.	Jules packed the lantern, but Sam forgot the batteries.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
8.	The wind shifted; the sailboat turned toward shore.	COMPOUND COMPLEX

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 compound sentence and one new complex sentence that show different relationships between ideas.

COMPOUND _____

COMPLEX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a compound-complex sentence with exactly two independent clauses and one dependent clause; join the independent clauses with a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

ANSWER KEY

Clause Connections

GRADE 8 · 8.LL.20.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The robot beeped, and its screen flashed.	**COMPOUND**	Two independent clauses join with a comma and and.
2	The gate was locked; our team found another entrance.	**COMPOUND**	A semicolon joins two independent clauses.
3	Because the soil was dry, Nia watered the seedlings.	**COMPLEX**	The because clause is dependent; the other clause is independent.
4	The recipe looked simple, yet its steps took hours.	**COMPOUND**	Two independent clauses join with a comma and yet.
5	I saved the receipt so that I could return the jacket.	**COMPLEX**	The so that clause is dependent and gives the purpose for the independent clause.
6	When the lights dimmed, the musicians began playing.	**COMPLEX**	The when clause is dependent; the other clause is independent.
7	Jules packed the lantern, but Sam forgot the batteries.	**COMPOUND**	Two independent clauses join with a comma and but.
8	The wind shifted; the sailboat turned toward shore.	**COMPOUND**	A semicolon joins two independent clauses.

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)

- **COMPOUND**: The museum closed, so we visited the park.
- **COMPLEX**: Since the bridge was flooded, the bus took another route.

Challenge: After the bell rang, Priya opened her notebook, and Mateo started the timer.

For Part 2, students should identify the clauses and explain whether they are joined as two independent clauses or include a dependent clause. In the challenge sample, “After the bell rang” is dependent, and the two independent clauses join with a comma and and.