Clause Sort

Sort complete clause joins from fragments.

4.L.GC.1.39 "Grammar: Use subordinating conjunctions to join clauses. (Continue)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE JOIN

A complete sentence has an independent clause and a dependent clause joined by a subordinating conjunction. It tells a whole thought.

Unless the dragon sleeps, the villagers will hide.

FRAGMENT

A fragment may begin with a subordinating conjunction, but it does not have an independent clause. It does not tell a whole thought.

Until the river freezes.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle COMPLETE or FRAGMENT for each item; for Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew which category each belongs in.

1. Because the trail was muddy, we wore boots. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

2. I packed my lunch before the bus arrived. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

3. When the bell rang. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

4. Since Mia practiced daily, she learned the song. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

5. If the wind becomes stronger. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

6. Although the bakery opened early. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

7. We stayed inside while the hail fell. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

8. After the parade ended. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

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 COMPLETE sentence and one new FRAGMENT that begins with a subordinating conjunction.

COMPLETE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a COMPLETE sentence that begins with a dependent clause, uses a comma, and uses a subordinating conjunction not used in Part 1.

ANSWER KEY

Clause Sort

GRADE 4 · 4.L.GC.1.39

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Because the trail was muddy, we wore boots.	**COMPLETE**	It has a dependent clause and an independent clause joined by because.
2	I packed my lunch before the bus arrived.	**COMPLETE**	It has an independent clause and a dependent clause joined by before.
3	When the bell rang.	**FRAGMENT**	It has only a dependent clause and does not tell a whole thought.
4	Since Mia practiced daily, she learned the song.	**COMPLETE**	It has a dependent clause and an independent clause joined by since.
5	If the wind becomes stronger.	**FRAGMENT**	It has only a dependent clause and needs an independent clause.
6	Although the bakery opened early.	**FRAGMENT**	It has only a dependent clause and does not tell a whole thought.
7	We stayed inside while the hail fell.	**COMPLETE**	It has an independent clause and a dependent clause joined by while.
8	After the parade ended.	**FRAGMENT**	It has only a dependent clause and needs an independent clause.

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)

- **COMPLETE**: Whenever the library closes, Dad picks me up.
- **FRAGMENT**: If the paint dries.

Challenge: Whenever the library closes, Dad picks me up.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify whether the item has both a dependent clause and an independent clause. Part 3 and the challenge may have many correct answers if the clause structure and punctuation are correct.