Clause Clue Sort

Find out which word groups can stand on their own.

7.L.GC.2.a "Apply understandings of syntax to comprehend and analyze a variety of grade-level texts. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE CLAUSE

A complete clause has a subject and a verb. It expresses a full thought and can stand alone as a sentence.

The puppy chased a leaf.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE

A dependent clause has a subject and a verb, but it does not express a full thought. It needs a complete clause to finish its meaning.

While the oven warmed

1 SORT

8 items

For each clause, circle COMPLETE or DEPENDENT, then choose two items and explain which clue helped you sort each one.

1.	The lanterns glowed at dusk.	COMPLETE DEPENDENT
2.	The librarian shelved the returns.	COMPLETE DEPENDENT
3.	Although the map was torn	COMPLETE DEPENDENT
4.	We waited beside the gate.	COMPLETE DEPENDENT
5.	because the creek had flooded	COMPLETE DEPENDENT
6.	whenever the bell rings	COMPLETE DEPENDENT
7.	My cousin fixed the bicycle.	COMPLETE DEPENDENT
8.	if the trail stays dry	COMPLETE DEPENDENT

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 clause and one new DEPENDENT clause.

COMPLETE _____

DEPENDENT _____

CHALLENGE

Combine one dependent clause and one complete clause to write a complex sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Clause Clue Sort

GRADE 7 · 7.L.GC.2.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The lanterns glowed at dusk.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, lanterns, and a verb, glowed, and it expresses a full thought.
2	The librarian shelved the returns.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject and verb and can stand alone as a sentence.
3	Although the map was torn	**DEPENDENT**	Although signals that the idea needs another clause to be complete.
4	We waited beside the gate.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, we, and a verb, waited, and it expresses a full thought.
5	because the creek had flooded	**DEPENDENT**	Because signals that the clause gives a reason but does not finish the thought.
6	whenever the bell rings	**DEPENDENT**	Whenever signals that the clause needs a complete clause to tell what happens.
7	My cousin fixed the bicycle.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject and verb and can stand alone as a sentence.
8	if the trail stays dry	**DEPENDENT**	If signals that the clause gives a condition and needs a complete 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**: The orchestra practiced after school.
- **DEPENDENT**: when the snow began to fall

Challenge: Because the wind increased, the sailors lowered the sails.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a full thought or explain that a dependent clause needs more information. For the challenge, check that the sentence includes one dependent clause and one complete clause.