Sentence Sort

One complete thought or two?

3.W.7.d "Usage – Writing complete simple, compound, and complex declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences, using coordinating and subordinating conjunctions (e.g., and, for, but, or) correctly."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SIMPLE SENTENCE

A simple sentence tells one complete thought. It can use and to join people, things, or actions.

My turtle rests inside its tank.

COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence joins two complete thoughts. A comma and a word such as and, but, or or connect them.

A kite soared, but the string snapped.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle SIMPLE or COMPOUND, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1.	The puppy chased a red ball.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
2.	Mia and Leo planted seeds.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
3.	The bus arrived, and the riders climbed aboard.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
4.	Dad washed and dried the dishes.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
5.	I wanted to swim, but the pool was closed.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
6.	The gate was open, but the goats stayed in the yard.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
7.	The chef chopped carrots and onions.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
8.	Our class read a funny story.	SIMPLE COMPOUND

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 simple sentence and one new compound sentence about a school day.

SIMPLE _____

COMPOUND _____

CHALLENGE

Write a compound sentence about two events using but, then underline each complete thought.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Sort

GRADE 3 · 3.W.7.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The puppy chased a red ball.	**SIMPLE**	One complete thought.
2	Mia and Leo planted seeds.	**SIMPLE**	Two people share one action in one complete thought.
3	The bus arrived, and the riders climbed aboard.	**COMPOUND**	Each side of the comma and and is a complete thought.
4	Dad washed and dried the dishes.	**SIMPLE**	One person does two actions in one complete thought.
5	I wanted to swim, but the pool was closed.	**COMPOUND**	Two complete thoughts are joined by a comma and but.
6	The gate was open, but the goats stayed in the yard.	**COMPOUND**	Two complete thoughts are joined by a comma and but.
7	The chef chopped carrots and onions.	**SIMPLE**	And joins two things, not two complete thoughts.
8	Our class read a funny story.	**SIMPLE**	One complete thought.

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)

- **SIMPLE**: The teacher opened the window.
- **COMPOUND**: We finished our art, and we cleaned the tables.

Challenge: I packed my lunch, but I forgot my water bottle.

For Part 2, students might explain that item 4 has one person doing two actions, while item 5 joins two complete thoughts with but.