Sentence Switchboard

Sort sentences by how their parts connect.

4.W.6.e "Usage – Writing complete simple, compound, and complex declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences, using coordinating and subordinating conjunctions (e.g., yet, nor, so) correctly."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence joins two complete thoughts with a comma and a word such as and, but, or, so, or yet. Each thought could be its own sentence.

Kites soared, but strings snapped.

COMPLEX SENTENCE

A complex sentence has one complete thought and one part that cannot stand alone. The part that cannot stand alone often starts with because, when, if, or although.

Although soup cooled, steam lingered.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle COMPOUND or COMPLEX for each sentence; for Part 2, pick two numbered sentences and explain how you knew.

1. The rain stopped, and the runners started. COMPOUND COMPLEX

2. Did Mia call, or did Leo text? COMPOUND COMPLEX

3. Because the path was muddy, our boots got dirty. COMPOUND COMPLEX

4. The bus arrived, yet nobody climbed aboard. COMPOUND COMPLEX

5. Will the puppy bark if the doorbell rings? COMPOUND COMPLEX

6. When the lights went out, the crowd gasped! COMPOUND COMPLEX

7. I wanted an apple, but the basket was empty. COMPOUND COMPLEX

8. The paint dried, so we hung the sign. 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. Label each one.

COMPOUND _____

COMPLEX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a complex question that begins with a part that cannot stand alone.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Switchboard

GRADE 4 · 4.W.6.e

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The rain stopped, and the runners started.	**COMPOUND**	Both sides of and are complete thoughts.
2	Did Mia call, or did Leo text?	**COMPOUND**	Each side of or could be a complete question.
3	Because the path was muddy, our boots got dirty.	**COMPLEX**	Because the path was muddy cannot stand alone.
4	The bus arrived, yet nobody climbed aboard.	**COMPOUND**	Both sides of yet are complete thoughts.
5	Will the puppy bark if the doorbell rings?	**COMPLEX**	If the doorbell rings cannot stand alone.
6	When the lights went out, the crowd gasped!	**COMPLEX**	When the lights went out cannot stand alone.
7	I wanted an apple, but the basket was empty.	**COMPOUND**	Both sides of but are complete thoughts.
8	The paint dried, so we hung the sign.	**COMPOUND**	Both sides of so are complete thoughts.

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 frog leaped, and the fish swam.
- **COMPLEX**: Before the sun set, the birds flew home.

Challenge: When the game ends, will the team celebrate?

For Part 2, students may choose any two items and explain their choices. For example, item 1 joins two complete thoughts, while item 3 begins with a part that cannot stand alone.