Small Fixes

Notice how clauses and phrases connect ideas.

L.7.1 "In both written and oral expression: Create sentences using correctly placed clauses and phrases. Demonstrate appropriate use of simple, compound, complex and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one clause that could stand alone as a sentence in each paragraph, and circle a word in each paragraph that joins two clauses to show how the ideas connect.

A Bell Rings Again

1. On Saturday, our school gym became a repair café. Neighbors brought broken lamps, torn backpacks, and bikes with loose chains. I carried in my bicycle because its bell had stopped ringing. While I waited at the bike table, a volunteer named Rosa tested the bell with her thumb. The lever moved, but no sound came out. After removing the bell's cover, Rosa found a small pebble wedged against the metal dome. She lifted it with tweezers, and the bell rang sharply across the gym.

2. Across the room, a student named Malik examined a backpack with a ripped strap. He spread the fabric flat, and his partner threaded a needle. Because the tear ran close to the zipper, they stitched slowly so the zipper would still slide. Malik pulled on the strap after they finished, but the seam held firm. The owner slipped the backpack onto her shoulders and smiled. Next to their table, someone fixed a lamp; its light spilled onto a stack of tools.

3. Before the doors closed, Rosa asked me to ring the bell again. I pressed the lever, and a bright chime cut through the busy room. Although the pebble was tiny, it had kept the whole bell silent. I rode home with my hands on the handlebars and my eyes on the road. At the next crossing, I heard a loose rattle near my front wheel, so I stopped to check it. The bell was secure, but a reflector needed tightening. I made a note to bring a screwdriver next time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, copy the simple sentence that lists three kinds of items. Which item does “with loose chains” describe?

2. In “The lever moved, but no sound came out,” what two complete ideas does “but” connect? How are the ideas related?

3. Rewrite “Although the pebble was tiny, it had kept the whole bell silent” as a compound sentence using “but.”

4. In “Malik pulled on the strap after they finished, but the seam held firm,” identify the two clauses that could stand alone. What does “after they finished” tell you?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about a small problem you solve at home or school. Include one simple, one compound, one complex, and one compound-complex sentence; place phrases near what they describe, and use joining words to show time or contrast.

Small Fixes

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one clause that could stand alone as a sentence in each paragraph, and circle a word in each paragraph that joins two clauses to show how the ideas connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, copy the simple sentence that lists three kinds of items. Which item does "with loose chains" describe?	**"Neighbors brought broken lamps, torn backpacks, and bikes with loose chains." The phrase describes the bikes.**
2	In "The lever moved, but no sound came out," what two complete ideas does "but" connect? How are the ideas related?	**The lever moved, and no sound came out. "But" shows a contrast between the moving lever and the silent bell.**
3	Rewrite "Although the pebble was tiny, it had kept the whole bell silent" as a compound sentence using "but."	**The pebble was tiny, but it had kept the whole bell silent.**
4	In "Malik pulled on the strap after they finished, but the seam held firm," identify the two clauses that could stand alone. What does "after they finished" tell you?	**"Malik pulled on the strap" and "the seam held firm" could stand alone. "After they finished" tells when Malik pulled on the strap.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My pencil sharpener jammed. I shook it gently, but the pencil shaving stayed inside. When I opened the small drawer, I found a broken pencil tip. I removed the tip after the drawer slid out, and the sharpener worked again.

For the marking job, accept any independent clause and any word that joins two clauses in each paragraph. For Your Turn, check that each of the four sentences has the requested structure and that its phrases clearly describe the intended words or actions.