How Ideas Connect

Sort sentences by how their ideas fit together.

7.LL.17.b "Identify the usage of simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex statements and questions to signal differing relationships among ideas in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPOUND

A compound sentence has two complete thoughts joined by a comma and a joining word, or by a semicolon. Each thought can stand on its own.

Owls hooted; foxes listened.

COMPLEX

A complex sentence pairs a complete thought with a dependent thought introduced by a word such as because, when, or if. The dependent thought adds a reason, time, or condition.

Whenever steam rises, Rosa opens windows.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle COMPOUND or COMPLEX for each item; for Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew.

1.	The bus arrived, but the team stayed inside.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
2.	Did you call Lena, or did she call you?	COMPOUND COMPLEX
3.	Because the trail was muddy, we chose another route.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
4.	The lights dimmed, so the audience grew quiet.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
5.	Will the match begin when the rain stops?	COMPOUND COMPLEX
6.	If the gate is locked, will we use the side entrance?	COMPOUND COMPLEX
7.	My phone buzzed, and Dad checked the message.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
8.	The sun set, yet the hikers kept walking.	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

For Part 3, write one new compound sentence and one new complex sentence.

COMPOUND _____

COMPLEX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a compound-complex question with two complete thoughts joined by and, but, or or, plus one dependent thought starting with because, when, or if; underline the dependent thought.

ANSWER KEY

How Ideas Connect

GRADE 7 · 7.LL.17.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The bus arrived, but the team stayed inside.	**COMPOUND**	Both sides of but are complete thoughts.
2	Did you call Lena, or did she call you?	**COMPOUND**	Or joins two complete questions.
3	Because the trail was muddy, we chose another route.	**COMPLEX**	Because introduces a dependent thought that gives a reason.
4	The lights dimmed, so the audience grew quiet.	**COMPOUND**	So joins two complete thoughts.
5	Will the match begin when the rain stops?	**COMPLEX**	When the rain stops is a dependent thought that tells time.
6	If the gate is locked, will we use the side entrance?	**COMPLEX**	If the gate is locked is a dependent thought that gives a condition.
7	My phone buzzed, and Dad checked the message.	**COMPOUND**	And joins two complete thoughts.
8	The sun set, yet the hikers kept walking.	**COMPOUND**	Yet joins two 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**: A puppy yawned, and its owner smiled.
- **COMPLEX**: Since the library closed early, Talia borrowed a book online.

Challenge: If the museum opens early, will you visit the exhibit, or will you wait until noon?

For Part 2, answers will vary. Each explanation should identify the two complete thoughts in a compound item or the complete and dependent thoughts in a complex item.