Clause Detective

Sort sentences by how their clauses connect.

7.LL.17 "Identify the conventions of standard English grammar and usage in writing. a. Identify subject-verb agreement with compound subjects joined by correlative and coordinating conjunctions and with collective nouns when verb form depends on..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SIMPLE SENTENCE

A simple sentence has one independent clause, which can stand alone. Its subject or verb may have more than one part.

Under the moonlight, owls and bats swooped above the meadow.

COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses and no dependent clauses. A semicolon can connect the clauses. Another common way is a comma followed by a joining word such as *and*.

The kettle whistled; Grandpa poured the tea.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SIMPLE or COMPOUND for each sentence, then choose one item from each category in Part 2 and explain how you knew.

1.	The violinist adjusted her bow.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
2.	The hallway grew quiet, but the alarm kept ringing.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
3.	A storm approached; the swimmers left the beach.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
4.	Maya sketched and painted a mural.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
5.	Our team found the map, and the guide checked its markings.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
6.	The lights flickered; the audience stayed seated.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
7.	Two kittens slept beside the fireplace.	SIMPLE COMPOUND
8.	Did the train arrive, or is it still delayed?	SIMPLE COMPOUND

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category in Part 2 and explain how you knew.

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.

SIMPLE _____

COMPOUND _____

CHALLENGE

Write a compound question about a choice, using two independent clauses joined by a comma and *or*.

ANSWER KEY

Clause Detective

GRADE 7 · 7.LL.17

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The violinist adjusted her bow.	**SIMPLE**	One independent clause.
2	The hallway grew quiet, but the alarm kept ringing.	**COMPOUND**	The hallway grew quiet and the alarm kept ringing are independent clauses joined by a comma and but.
3	A storm approached; the swimmers left the beach.	**COMPOUND**	A storm approached and the swimmers left the beach are independent clauses joined by a semicolon.
4	Maya sketched and painted a mural.	**SIMPLE**	One independent clause with a compound verb.
5	Our team found the map, and the guide checked its markings.	**COMPOUND**	Our team found the map and the guide checked its markings are independent clauses joined by a comma and and.
6	The lights flickered; the audience stayed seated.	**COMPOUND**	The lights flickered and the audience stayed seated are independent clauses joined by a semicolon.
7	Two kittens slept beside the fireplace.	**SIMPLE**	One independent clause.
8	Did the train arrive, or is it still delayed?	**COMPOUND**	Did the train arrive and is it still delayed are independent questions joined by a comma and or.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category in Part 2 and explain how you knew.
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 chef chopped fresh herbs.
- **COMPOUND**: The wind rose; the flags snapped.

Challenge: Will Nina bring the posters, or should I print them?

For Part 2, an explanation might note that item 4 has one independent clause with two verbs, while item 6 has two independent clauses separated by a semicolon. Accept other explanations that correctly identify the clauses.