Idea Link Lab

Sort sentences by how they connect ideas.

7.LL.21.b "Construct simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to represent relationships among ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPOUND

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

A lantern flickered, and the hallway darkened.

COMPLEX

A complex sentence joins one complete thought with a dependent thought. A dependent thought cannot stand alone and may begin with because, although, or when.

Although the kettle whistled, the cook kept stirring.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1 SORT: Circle COMPOUND or COMPLEX for each sentence; for Part 2 PROVE IT, choose two items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.

1.	The museum opened early, and the line moved quickly.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
2.	The rain stopped, so the team resumed practice.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
3.	Because the rain stopped, the team resumed practice.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
4.	Nico saved the file, so his work remained safe.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
5.	When the bell rang, students entered the gym.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
6.	The garden grew after the neighbors planted seeds.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
7.	The bus arrived late, but everyone reached the concert.	COMPOUND COMPLEX
8.	The lights dimmed, and the audience fell silent.	COMPOUND COMPLEX

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose two items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new compound sentence and one new complex sentence about the same event.

COMPOUND _____

COMPLEX _____

CHALLENGE

Combine ideas from your two sentences into one compound-complex sentence with two complete thoughts and one dependent thought; underline the dependent thought.

ANSWER KEY # Idea Link Lab

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The museum opened early, and the line moved quickly.	**COMPOUND**	Two complete thoughts are joined by a comma and and.
2	The rain stopped, so the team resumed practice.	**COMPOUND**	Two complete thoughts are joined by a comma and so.
3	Because the rain stopped, the team resumed practice.	**COMPLEX**	Because the rain stopped is a dependent thought joined to a complete thought.
4	Nico saved the file, so his work remained safe.	**COMPOUND**	Two complete thoughts are joined by a comma and so.
5	When the bell rang, students entered the gym.	**COMPLEX**	When the bell rang is a dependent thought joined to a complete thought.
6	The garden grew after the neighbors planted seeds.	**COMPLEX**	After the neighbors planted seeds is a dependent thought joined to a complete thought.
7	The bus arrived late, but everyone reached the concert.	**COMPOUND**	Two complete thoughts are joined by a comma and but.
8	The lights dimmed, and the audience fell silent.	**COMPOUND**	Two complete thoughts are joined by a comma and and.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose two items, one from each category, 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)

- **COMPOUND**: The chef chopped the onions, and the soup began to simmer.
- **COMPLEX**: While the soup simmered, the chef washed the dishes.

Challenge: While the soup simmered, the chef chopped the onions, and then she washed the dishes.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify two complete thoughts in a compound sentence or a dependent thought in a complex sentence. Items 2 and 3 express the same cause-and-effect relationship using different sentence structures.