Clause Connections

Sort sentences by how their ideas connect.

7.LL.21 "Create written work using standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics. a. Revise their own writing using correct mechanics with a focus on commas, apostrophes, quotation marks, colons, and semicolons. b. Construct simple, compound..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence joins two complete thoughts with a comma and a coordinating conjunction. Each thought could stand alone as a sentence.

Mira packed telescopes, but Jonah carried binoculars.

COMPLEX SENTENCE

A complex sentence has one complete thought and one dependent clause that cannot stand alone. A subordinating word introduces the dependent clause.

Whenever thunder rumbles, puppies hide beneath furniture.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle COMPOUND or COMPLEX for each sentence; for Part 2, choose two items from different categories and explain how you know each type.

1. The paint dried, so Lena hung the poster. COMPOUND COMPLEX

2. Because the library closed early, Omar returned his books. COMPOUND COMPLEX

3. We waited until the fog lifted. COMPOUND COMPLEX

4. I searched the attic, yet my sister checked the basement. COMPOUND COMPLEX

5. The robot stopped, and its wheels spun in place. COMPOUND COMPLEX

6. Although Nia knew the route, she opened her map. COMPOUND COMPLEX

7. Jules watered the seedlings, and Max trimmed the vines. COMPOUND COMPLEX

8. The timer beeped, and the students put down their pencils. COMPOUND COMPLEX

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose two items from different categories and explain how you know each type.

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 about a school event. Underline the word that joins the clauses in each sentence.

COMPOUND

COMPLEX

CHALLENGE

Write one compound-complex sentence about a school event with two complete thoughts and one dependent clause. Underline both words that connect the clauses.

ANSWER KEY

Clause Connections

GRADE 7 · 7.LL.21

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The paint dried, so Lena hung the poster.	**COMPOUND**	Both clauses can stand alone, and so joins them.
2	Because the library closed early, Omar returned his books.	**COMPLEX**	Because the library closed early is a dependent clause.
3	We waited until the fog lifted.	**COMPLEX**	Until the fog lifted is a dependent clause.
4	I searched the attic, yet my sister checked the basement.	**COMPOUND**	Both clauses can stand alone, and yet joins them.
5	The robot stopped, and its wheels spun in place.	**COMPOUND**	Both clauses can stand alone, and and joins them.
6	Although Nia knew the route, she opened her map.	**COMPLEX**	Although Nia knew the route is a dependent clause.
7	Jules watered the seedlings, and Max trimmed the vines.	**COMPOUND**	Both clauses can stand alone, and and joins them.
8	The timer beeped, and the students put down their pencils.	**COMPOUND**	Both clauses can stand alone, and and joins them.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose two items from different categories and explain how you know each type.
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 choir practiced, and the audience waited.
- **COMPLEX**: After the bell rang, the dancers entered the gym.

Challenge: When the school play ended, the actors bowed, and the audience applauded.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify both complete thoughts in a compound sentence and the dependent clause in a complex sentence. For Part 3, check that each sentence has the required clauses and correctly underlined joining words.