How Ideas Connect

Sort sentences by the way their ideas fit together.

8.LL.16.c "Explain how using simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex statements and questions signals differing relationships among ideas in a text."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPOUND

A compound sentence joins two complete thoughts with a comma and a word such as *and*, *but*, *or*, or *so*. That word can show addition, contrast, a choice, or a result.

Artists mixed turquoise, and partners prepared brushes.

COMPLEX

A complex sentence joins a complete thought to a thought that cannot stand alone. A word such as *because*, *although*, *when*, or *if* can show a reason, contrast, time, or condition.

Although glaciers advanced slowly, ancient coastlines shifted.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1 SORT: Read each numbered sentence and circle COMPOUND or COMPLEX.

1.	The exhibit closed, but the visitors stayed outside.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
2.	The script was ready, so the actors began rehearsing.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
3.	Because the printer jammed, Maya submitted her draft late.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
4.	Did Jonah call, or did Priya send a message?	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
5.	When the whistle sounded, the runners sprinted.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
6.	The crew packed up after the lights went out.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
7.	If the map is accurate, we will reach the cabin.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
8.	The door creaked, so everyone fell silent.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how its joining word connects the ideas.

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.

COMPOUND _____

COMPLEX _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your compound sentence as a complex sentence using the same two events, then explain how the new joining word connects them.

ANSWER KEY

How Ideas Connect

GRADE 8 · 8.LL.16.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The exhibit closed, but the visitors stayed outside.	**COMPOUND**	Two complete thoughts are joined by but, which shows contrast.
2	The script was ready, so the actors began rehearsing.	**COMPOUND**	Two complete thoughts are joined by so, which shows a result.
3	Because the printer jammed, Maya submitted her draft late.	**COMPLEX**	Because introduces a dependent thought that gives the reason for the late submission.
4	Did Jonah call, or did Priya send a message?	**COMPOUND**	Two complete questions are joined by or, which presents a choice.
5	When the whistle sounded, the runners sprinted.	**COMPLEX**	When introduces a dependent thought that tells when the runners sprinted.
6	The crew packed up after the lights went out.	**COMPLEX**	After introduces a dependent thought that tells when the crew packed up.
7	If the map is accurate, we will reach the cabin.	**COMPLEX**	If introduces a dependent thought that states a condition.
8	The door creaked, so everyone fell silent.	**COMPOUND**	Two complete thoughts are joined by so, which shows a result.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how its joining word connects the ideas.
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 alarm rang, so the hikers left the trail.
- **COMPLEX**: When twilight arrived, bats circled the bridge.

Challenge: Because the alarm rang, the hikers left the trail. Because shows that the alarm was the reason the hikers left.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify both the sentence structure and the relationship between ideas. For example, item 1 joins two complete thoughts with but to show contrast, while item 3 uses because to give a reason.