Clause Connections

How sentence structures show connections among ideas.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1b "Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each dependent clause, circle each coordinating conjunction that joins independent clauses, and label every sentence S, CD, CX, or CC to show how its structure connects ideas.

A Rover's Careful Work

1. Before NASA's Perseverance rover landed on Mars in 2021, engineers studied Jezero Crater from Earth. The crater once held a lake, so scientists hoped for clues about ancient environments. Although Perseverance carries many tools, its cameras help the team choose which rocks to examine closely. The rover cannot drive quickly across rough ground. When a route looks risky, planners send careful commands, and Perseverance follows them after receiving the signals. Each trip teaches scientists more about the crater's surface and history.

2. One instrument called PIXL studies the chemical makeup of tiny spots on a rock. It uses X-rays to identify certain elements, but it must work very close to the surface. Scientists also use the rover's drill to collect cylindrical rock cores. Because the cores may be returned to Earth by a future mission, the team seals them in special tubes. The tubes are small, yet their contents could help researchers test ideas in laboratories. If a sample has unusual minerals, scientists can compare it with other samples, and they can plan later investigations.

3. Rovers do not search for living creatures on Mars. Instead, they look for conditions that could have supported life long ago. Perseverance sends data to Earth, and scientists share the findings with other researchers. While one group maps a rocky outcrop, another group may study images of dust or clouds. The work takes patience because radio signals need time to travel between planets. If new evidence changes a team's plan, the scientists discuss the results, and the rover begins a different task. Each choice connects a question, a tool, and a careful observation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Find the sentence in paragraph 1 that uses so to connect a cause with a result. What type of sentence is it, and what relationship does so signal?

2. Which sentence in paragraph 1 uses a dependent clause to contrast Perseverance's many tools with the job of its cameras? Name the sentence type and the relationship it signals.

3. Find the compound-complex sentence in paragraph 2. What condition does its dependent clause give, and what two actions follow from that condition?

4. Identify a simple sentence in paragraph 3. Why does its simple structure fit the idea it states?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence update about preparing for a school event. Include one simple, one compound, one complex, and one compound-complex sentence, label each sentence type, and use the structures to show clear relationships among ideas.

ANSWER KEY

Clause Connections

GRADE 7 · L.7.1b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each dependent clause, circle each coordinating conjunction that joins independent clauses, and label every sentence S, CD, CX, or CC to show how its structure connects ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find the sentence in paragraph 1 that uses so to connect a cause with a result. What type of sentence is it, and what relationship does so signal?	**"The crater once held a lake, so scientists hoped for clues about ancient environments." It is compound. So signals that the former lake is the reason for the scientists' hope.**
2	Which sentence in paragraph 1 uses a dependent clause to contrast Perseverance's many tools with the job of its cameras? Name the sentence type and the relationship it signals.	**"Although Perseverance carries many tools, its cameras help the team choose which rocks to examine closely." It is complex. Although signals contrast.**
3	Find the compound-complex sentence in paragraph 2. What condition does its dependent clause give, and what two actions follow from that condition?	**"If a sample has unusual minerals, scientists can compare it with other samples, and they can plan later investigations." The condition is that a sample has unusual minerals. Scientists can compare it with other samples and plan later investigations.**
4	Identify a simple sentence in paragraph 3. Why does its simple structure fit the idea it states?	**"Rovers do not search for living creatures on Mars." It states one direct fact without needing to connect it to another clause.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Simple: Our drama club chose a mystery play. Compound: We built the set, and Maya painted the backdrop. Complex: Because the audience arrives at seven, we will open the doors at six thirty. Compound-complex: When the lights dim, the actors will take their places, and the audience will grow quiet.

Accept equivalent explanations of the relationships, such as cause and result, contrast, condition, and connected actions. For Part 3, accept any accurate four-sentence response that includes and correctly labels all four sentence types.