Clause Case Files

Sort sentences by the clauses that build them.

11.LU.1.B "Use complex sentence structure to infuse sentence variety in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLEX SENTENCE

A complex sentence has one independent clause and at least one dependent clause. A dependent clause cannot stand alone.

After the rain stopped, the streets gleamed.

COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence joins two independent clauses, often with a comma and a coordinating conjunction or with a semicolon. Each clause can stand alone.

Dawn arrived, so the owls returned home.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle COMPLEX or COMPOUND for each sentence, then, for Part 2, choose two sentences and explain which clauses prove each choice.

1.	Although the trail was steep, the hikers reached the summit.	COMPLEX COMPOUND
2.	Because the printer jammed, Maya submitted the form online.	COMPLEX COMPOUND
3.	The debate ended; the audience continued discussing the issue.	COMPLEX COMPOUND
4.	When the bell rang, students packed their instruments.	COMPLEX COMPOUND
5.	The engineers tested the bridge, but the sensors showed an error.	COMPLEX COMPOUND
6.	The chef sharpened her knives, and the kitchen grew quiet.	COMPLEX COMPOUND
7.	If the forecast changes, the team will move practice indoors.	COMPLEX COMPOUND
8.	While the glacier melted, the river rose quickly.	COMPLEX COMPOUND

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new complex sentence and one new compound sentence.

COMPLEX _____

COMPOUND _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence mini scene that uses one complex sentence and one compound sentence.

ANSWER KEY # Clause Case Files

GRADE 11 · 11.LU.1.B

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Although the trail was steep, the hikers reached the summit.	**COMPLEX**	"Although the trail was steep" is dependent, and "the hikers reached the summit" is independent.
2	Because the printer jammed, Maya submitted the form online.	**COMPLEX**	The because clause is dependent, while "Maya submitted the form online" is independent.
3	The debate ended; the audience continued discussing the issue.	**COMPOUND**	Both parts are independent clauses joined by a semicolon.
4	When the bell rang, students packed their instruments.	**COMPLEX**	"When the bell rang" is dependent, and "students packed their instruments" is independent.
5	The engineers tested the bridge, but the sensors showed an error.	**COMPOUND**	Two independent clauses are joined by a comma and the coordinating conjunction "but."
6	The chef sharpened her knives, and the kitchen grew quiet.	**COMPOUND**	Two independent clauses are joined by a comma and the coordinating conjunction "and."
7	If the forecast changes, the team will move practice indoors.	**COMPLEX**	The if clause is dependent, and "the team will move practice indoors" is independent.
8	While the glacier melted, the river rose quickly.	**COMPLEX**	The while clause is dependent, and "the river rose" is independent.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **COMPLEX**: While the orchestra tuned, the conductor reviewed the program.
- **COMPOUND**: The gallery closed, yet visitors waited outside.

Challenge: After the power returned, the laboratory screens blinked on. The researchers saved their files, and the backup system restarted.

For Part 2, students should identify the independent and dependent clauses in a complex sentence or the two independent clauses in a compound sentence. Accept varied correct original sentences in Part 3 and the challenge.