

Sentence Joiners Sort

Sort conjunctions by the kinds of ideas they join.

5.LU.1.C "Use interjections, prepositional phrases, and coordinating and subordinating conjunctions in writing to join words and phrases in a sentence."

NAME _____

DATE _____

EQUAL PARTS

A coordinating conjunction joins equal words, phrases, or complete ideas. Each complete idea can stand on its own.

The otter splashed, but the heron stood still.

DEPENDENT IDEA

A subordinating conjunction introduces an idea that needs a complete idea with it. The dependent idea cannot stand alone.

While daylight faded, lanterns glowed beside the dock.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Read each sentence, then circle EQUAL if its conjunction joins equal parts or DEPENDENT if one idea depends on the other.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. The path was muddy, so we wore boots. | ☐ EQUAL | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 2. Mia will sketch the map or paint the sign. | ☐ EQUAL | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 3. Because the bell rang, students packed their backpacks. | ☐ EQUAL | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 4. The audience clapped, and the actors bowed. | ☐ EQUAL | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 5. Although the wind blew, the kite stayed aloft. | ☐ EQUAL | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 6. If the battery charges, the robot will move. | ☐ EQUAL | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 7. The soup was hot, yet Leo ate it. | ☐ EQUAL | ☐ DEPENDENT |
| 8. The choir practiced, for the concert was near. | ☐ EQUAL | ☐ DEPENDENT |

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 sentence with a coordinating conjunction for EQUAL. Then write one new sentence with a subordinating conjunction for DEPENDENT.

EQUAL _____

DEPENDENT _____

CHALLENGE

Write one complete sentence that uses both kinds of conjunctions. Circle the subordinating conjunction and underline the coordinating conjunction.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The path was muddy, so we wore boots.	EQUAL	So is a coordinating conjunction joining two complete ideas.
2	Mia will sketch the map or paint the sign.	EQUAL	Or is a coordinating conjunction joining equal verb phrases.
3	Because the bell rang, students packed their backpacks.	DEPENDENT	Because begins a dependent idea.
4	The audience clapped, and the actors bowed.	EQUAL	And is a coordinating conjunction joining two complete ideas.
5	Although the wind blew, the kite stayed aloft.	DEPENDENT	Although begins a dependent idea.
6	If the battery charges, the robot will move.	DEPENDENT	If begins a dependent idea.
7	The soup was hot, yet Leo ate it.	EQUAL	Yet is a coordinating conjunction joining two complete ideas.
8	The choir practiced, for the concert was near.	EQUAL	For is a coordinating conjunction joining two complete ideas.

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)

- **EQUAL:** The pianist practiced, for the recital was near.
- **DEPENDENT:** Whenever clouds gathered, the campers covered the supplies.

Challenge: The team cheered (when) the final whistle blew, and the coach smiled.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are EQUAL. Items 3, 5, and 6 are DEPENDENT. In the challenge sample, parentheses show the circled word and underscores show the underlined word.