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.

ANSWER KEY # Sentence Joiners Sort

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.