Clause Sort

Sort sentences by the kinds of clauses they use.

6.LU.1.A "Construct simple, compound, and complex sentences to communicate ideas clearly and add variety to writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence joins two or more independent clauses. Each clause can stand alone as a sentence.

The gardener watered roses, and bees circled nearby.

COMPLEX SENTENCE

A complex sentence has an independent clause and a dependent clause. The dependent clause cannot stand alone.

While the painter cleaned brushes, music drifted downstairs.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle COMPOUND or COMPLEX for each sentence, then pick two numbers and explain which clauses make each sentence fit its category.

1.	The rain ended, and the players returned to the field.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
2.	When the bell rang, the students packed their bags.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
3.	Because the trail was muddy, we wore boots.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
4.	Maya sketched the map, but Jordan checked the directions.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
5.	The tiny robot rolled across the floor, and it beeped twice.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
6.	The choir practiced after school, so the director stayed late.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
7.	Although the wind was strong, the kite stayed in the air.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX
8.	The soup was hot, yet Luis tasted it carefully.	COMPOUND	COMPLEX

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 compound sentence and one new complex sentence.

COMPOUND _____

COMPLEX _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one topic. Write a simple sentence about it, then write one compound sentence and one complex sentence about the same topic.

ANSWER KEY

Clause Sort

GRADE 6 · 6.LU.1.A

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The rain ended, and the players returned to the field.	**COMPOUND**	Two independent clauses are joined by a comma and and.
2	When the bell rang, the students packed their bags.	**COMPLEX**	When the bell rang is a dependent clause, and the students packed their bags is independent.
3	Because the trail was muddy, we wore boots.	**COMPLEX**	Because the trail was muddy is dependent, and we wore boots is independent.
4	Maya sketched the map, but Jordan checked the directions.	**COMPOUND**	Two independent clauses are joined by a comma and but.
5	The tiny robot rolled across the floor, and it beeped twice.	**COMPOUND**	Both clauses can stand alone and are joined by a comma and and.
6	The choir practiced after school, so the director stayed late.	**COMPOUND**	Two independent clauses are joined by a comma and so.
7	Although the wind was strong, the kite stayed in the air.	**COMPLEX**	Although the wind was strong is dependent, and the kite stayed in the air is independent.
8	The soup was hot, yet Luis tasted it carefully.	**COMPOUND**	Two independent clauses are joined by a comma and yet.

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)

- **COMPOUND**: The gate opened, and the crowd cheered.
- **COMPLEX**: After the movie ended, we discussed the ending.

Challenge: The garden needs water. I watered the garden, and the soil turned dark. Because the garden needs water, I will water it again tomorrow.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should identify two independent clauses in a compound sentence or identify the dependent and independent clauses in a complex sentence. Accept varied student-created sentences if the clause structures and punctuation are correct.