Clause Clues

Sort clauses by whether they can stand alone.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE CLAUSE

A complete clause has a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.

Owls hunt at dusk.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE

A dependent clause has a subject and a verb, but does not express a complete thought. It needs a complete clause.

while the stars appeared

1 SORT

8 items

Read each clause, then circle COMPLETE or DEPENDENT.

1. The river flooded the field. COMPLETE DEPENDENT

2. before the train arrived COMPLETE DEPENDENT

3. Although the paint was wet COMPLETE DEPENDENT

4. Mina solved the puzzle. COMPLETE DEPENDENT

5. Our neighbors planted tomatoes. COMPLETE DEPENDENT

6. because the road was icy COMPLETE DEPENDENT

7. The speaker answered questions. COMPLETE DEPENDENT

8. while the engine cooled COMPLETE 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 COMPLETE clause and one new DEPENDENT clause.

COMPLETE _____

DEPENDENT _____

CHALLENGE

Write one compound-complex sentence with two complete clauses and one dependent clause.

ANSWER KEY

Clause Clues

GRADE 7 · 7.LU.1.A

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The river flooded the field.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
2	before the train arrived	**DEPENDENT**	The word “before” makes the clause unable to stand alone.
3	Although the paint was wet	**DEPENDENT**	The word “although” makes the clause unable to stand alone.
4	Mina solved the puzzle.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
5	Our neighbors planted tomatoes.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
6	because the road was icy	**DEPENDENT**	The word “because” makes the clause unable to stand alone.
7	The speaker answered questions.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.
8	while the engine cooled	**DEPENDENT**	The word “while” makes the clause unable to stand alone.

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)

- **COMPLETE**: The drummer tapped a steady beat.
- **DEPENDENT**: unless the wind changes

Challenge: Although the wind changed, the sailors adjusted the sails, and the captain checked the compass.

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