Clause Clue Sort

Look for a dependent clause in each sentence.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

NO DEPENDENT CLAUSE	HAS A DEPENDENT CLAUSE
This sentence has no dependent clause. It may have one independent clause or two independent clauses joined together. The comet appeared at dawn.	This sentence includes a dependent clause, which cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. It may be complex or compound-complex. While the orchestra tuned, the audience found seats.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle INDEPENDENT if it has no dependent clause or DEPENDENT if it has one, then choose two items and explain which words show your choice.

1.	The hikers packed water and checked the map.	INDEPENDENT	DEPENDENT
2.	Maya wanted to leave, but the bus was late.	INDEPENDENT	DEPENDENT
3.	Because the bridge was icy, the crew closed it.	INDEPENDENT	DEPENDENT
4.	The library opens at nine, and it closes at six.	INDEPENDENT	DEPENDENT
5.	When the alarm rang, everyone left the building.	INDEPENDENT	DEPENDENT
6.	The class cheered after the final bell rang.	INDEPENDENT	DEPENDENT
7.	Although the soil was dry, the gardener watered the beans, and the seeds began to sprout.	INDEPENDENT	DEPENDENT
8.	Our neighbors painted their fence last Saturday.	INDEPENDENT	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 no dependent clause and one new sentence with a dependent clause.

INDEPENDENT _____

DEPENDENT _____

CHALLENGE

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

ANSWER KEY

Clause Clue Sort

GRADE 8 · 8.LU.1.A

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hikers packed water and checked the map.	**INDEPENDENT**	It has one independent clause and no dependent clause.
2	Maya wanted to leave, but the bus was late.	**INDEPENDENT**	It has two independent clauses joined by but, with no dependent clause.
3	Because the bridge was icy, the crew closed it.	**DEPENDENT**	Because the bridge was icy is a dependent clause.
4	The library opens at nine, and it closes at six.	**INDEPENDENT**	It has two independent clauses joined by and, with no dependent clause.
5	When the alarm rang, everyone left the building.	**DEPENDENT**	When the alarm rang is a dependent clause.
6	The class cheered after the final bell rang.	**DEPENDENT**	After the final bell rang is a dependent clause.
7	Although the soil was dry, the gardener watered the beans, and the seeds began to sprout.	**DEPENDENT**	Although the soil was dry is a dependent clause. The sentence also has two independent clauses.
8	Our neighbors painted their fence last Saturday.	**INDEPENDENT**	It has one independent clause and no dependent clause.

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)

- **INDEPENDENT**: The pilot reviewed the checklist.
- **DEPENDENT**: Since the museum was crowded, we waited outside.

Challenge: After the storm passed, the soccer team returned to the field, and the referee restarted the match.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a dependent clause or correctly state that no dependent clause appears. In the challenge sentence, students should include one dependent clause and two complete independent clauses.