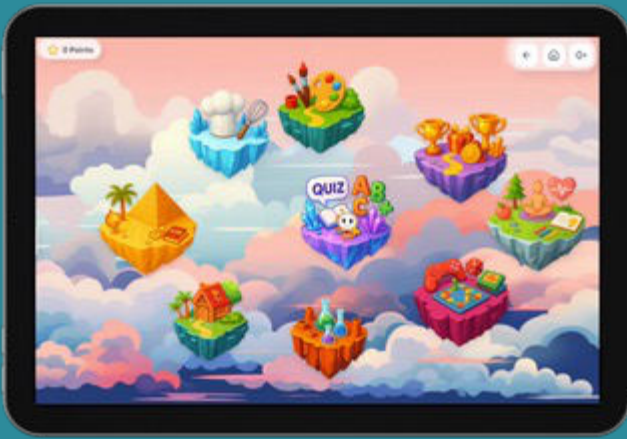


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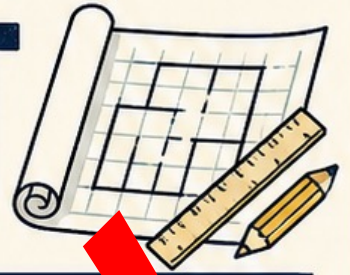
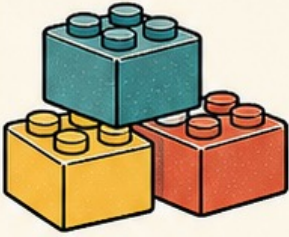


Complex Sentences - Year 6

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COMPLEX SENTENCE BLUEPRINT



MAIN CLAUSE

+

SUBORDINATE
CLAUSE

=

COMPLEX
SENTENCE

EXAMPLE

The orchestra fell silent

because

the conductor raised her baton.

MAIN CLAUSE

SUBORDINATING
CONJUNCTION

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

CLAUSE ORDER: TWO WAYS TO BUILD

1

The orchestra fell silent because the conductor raised her baton.

2

Because the conductor raised her baton, the orchestra fell silent.



When the subordinate clause comes first,
place a comma before the main clause.

CHECK THE STRUCTURE

- ✓ Find the finite verbs.
- ✓ Locate each clause.
- ✓ Explain the relationship.



SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS BY PURPOSE



TIME

Words: when, while, before, after, until, whenever, as soon as

Example:

“**When** the rehearsal ended, the musicians packed their instruments.”



REASON

Words: because, since, as

Example:

“The path was closed **because** heavy rain had damaged the bridge.”



CONDITION

Words: if, unless, provided that, as long as

Example:

“You can join the expedition **if** you bring suitable equipment.”



CONTRAST

Words: although, though, even though, whereas, while

Example:

“**Although** the puzzle looked simple, it required careful reasoning.”

CHOOSE FOR MEANING

Ask what relationship the subordinate clause adds:

time, **reason**, **condition** or **contrast**.



CLAUSE CONNECTION CHALLENGE



MAIN CLAUSE CARDS

1

The observatory
closed early

2

Maya packed
a rain jacket

3

The seedlings
will survive

4

The audience
applauded

6

The cyclist
slowed down

7

The museum
remained busy

8

Arlo started
his draft

9

The rescue team
changed course

10

The solar oven
heated quickly

11

The choir
practised quietly

12

Our class will visit
the wetlands



Cut along the dashed lines.

CLAUSE CONNECTION CHALLENGE

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE CARDS

A

because a storm
was approaching

B

although the
morning looked clear

C

if they receive
enough sunlight

D

after the
final note faded

F

as the path
became steeper

G

even though the new
exhibition was small

H

before the tablet's
battery ran out

I

because the river
had risen overnight

J

while the clouds
moved away

K

so that the younger
students could concentrate

L

if a heavy rain
is forecast



Cut along the dashed lines.

CLAUSE CONNECTION CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE MAT

HOW TO PLAY

- 1 Shuffle the main-clause and subordinate-clause cards.

Match two cards to create a logical complex sentence.

- 3 Say the sentence in both clause orders.

- 4 Write the correct punctuation on a whiteboard or paper.

MAIN CLAUSE

CONJUNCTION +
SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

COMPLETE COMPLEX SENTENCE

SCORE EACH SENTENCE



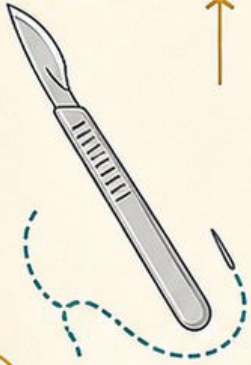
- ★ 1 point — logical match
- ★ 1 point — correct punctuation
- ★ 1 point — clear explanation of the relationship

STRETCH CHALLENGE



Find a second logical match. Explain how changing the conjunction changes the meaning.

SWAP THE ORDER



SENTENCE SURGERY WORKSHOP

PATIENT SENTENCES



— Cut apart the sentences. Rebuild each pair on the Operation Mat. —



1.

The robotics team tested the machine.

The machine had a loose sensor.

3.

The athlete finished the race.

She had injured her ankle.

5.

The ancient tree fell.

It had survived many storms.

7.

The photographer waited near the cliff.

The seabirds returned to their nests.

2.

The ferry left the harbour.

The fog began to lift.

4.

The library reopened.

The renovations were complete.

6.

The class started the investigation.

Everyone had recorded a prediction.

8.

The market stayed open.

The rain became heavier.



SENTENCE SURGERY WORKSHOP



OPERATION MAT + LANGUAGE TOOLS

1 PATIENT SENTENCES



time • real • contrast • condition • positive detail



3 CHOOSE A LANGUAGE TOOL



4 REBUILT COMPLEX SENTENCE



LANGUAGE TOOLS

because

although

after

before

when

while

if

unless

who

whose

which

that



FINAL CHECK

✓ Two clauses?

✓ Relationship clear?

✓ Comma correct?

✓ No fragment or run-on?



SURGEON'S CHALLENGE

Create two accurate versions of one case. Explain how the meaning or emphasis changes.



Name: _____

Date: _____

CLAUSE DETECTIVE

PAGE 1 — GUIDED INVESTIGATION



For each sentence: underline the finite verbs, draw a box around the main clause, circle the subordinating conjunction, and place brackets around the subordinate clause.

1. After the bell rang, the players returned to the court.
2. The drone hovered above the field while the engineer checked its signal.
3. Although the cave looked shallow, the explorers moved carefully.
4. The seedlings will grow if the soil remains moist.
5. Whenever the tide retreats, the pools reveal marine life.
6. The workers continued because the shelter needed more supplies.
7. Unless the wind becomes stronger, the ferry will leave on time.
8. The audience remained silent as the final scene unfolded.



DETECTIVE'S TIP

A clause contains a subject and a finite verb. A main clause can stand alone; a subordinate clause depends on another clause.

CLAUSE DETECTIVE

PAGE 1 — GUIDED INVESTIGATION



For each sentence: underline the finite verbs, draw a box around the main clause, circle the subordinating conjunction, and place brackets around the subordinate clause.

1. [After] the bell rang, the players returned to the court.
2. The drone hovered above the field [while] the engineer checked its signal.
3. [Although] the cave looked shallow, the explorers moved carefully.
4. The seedlings will grow [if] the soil remains moist.
5. [Whenever] the tide retreats, tiny pools reveal marine life.
6. The volunteers continued [because] the shelter needed more supplies.
7. [Unless] the wind becomes stronger, the ferry will leave on time.
8. The audience remained silent [as] the final scene unfolded.



DETECTIVE'S TIP

A clause contains a subject and a finite verb. A main clause can stand alone; a subordinate clause depends on another clause.

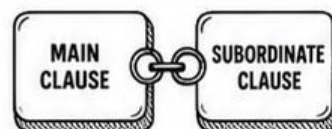
Name: _____

Date: _____



CLAUSE DETECTIVE

PAGE 2 – INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS



SECTION A: ANALYSE THE RELATIONSHIP

For each sentence, draw a dividing line between the clauses, circle the subordinating conjunction, then name the relationship: time, reason, condition or contrast.

1. The outdoor concert continued although the temperature dropped.

Relationship: _____

2. If the telescope is calibrated, the image will be clearer.

Relationship: _____

3. The rangers reopened the trail after the fallen branches were cleared.

Relationship: _____

4. The model bridge collapsed because one joint was weak.

Relationship: _____

5. While the researchers recorded the data, the whale surfaced nearby.

Relationship: _____

6. Unless the team reduces the load, the vehicle may overheat.

Relationship: _____

SECTION B: CHANGE THE EMPHASIS

Rewrite sentences 1 and 4 with the subordinate clause in the other position.
Punctuate the new sentence accurately.

1. Sentence _____

2. Sentence 4: _____



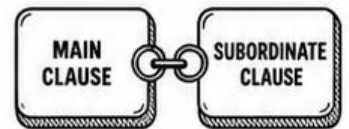
PROOF CHECK

Does each version contain one main clause and one subordinate clause?
Is the comma correct?



CLAUSE DETECTIVE

PAGE 2 – INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS



SECTION A: ANALYSE THE RELATIONSHIP

For each sentence, draw a dividing line between the clauses, circle the subordinating conjunction, then name the relationship: time, reason, condition or contrast.

1. The outdoor concert continued | although the temperature dropped.

Relationship: contrast

2. If the telescope is calibrated, | the image will be clearer.

Relationship: condition

3. The rangers reopened the trail | after the fallen branches were removed.

Relationship: time

4. The model bridge collapsed | because one joint was weak.

Relationship: reason

5. While the researchers recorded the call, | the whale surfaced nearby.

Relationship: time

6. Unless the temperature is reduced, | the vehicle may overheat.

Relationship: condition

SECTION B: CHANGE THE EMPHASIS

Rewrite sentences 1 and 4 with the subordinate clause in the other position. Punctuate each new sentence accurately.

1. Sentence 1: Although the temperature dropped, the outdoor concert continued.

2. Sentence 4: Because one joint was weak, the model bridge collapsed.



PROOF CHECK

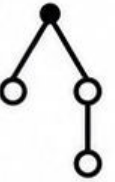
Does each version contain one main clause and one subordinate clause?
Is the comma correct?

Name: _____

Date: _____



COMPOUND OR COMPLEX?



PROVE IT WITH CLAUSE EVIDENCE



Separate the clauses with a slash. Underline the joining word. Then tick COMPOUND or COMPLEX. Decide from the clause structure—not from one word alone.

1. The wind strengthened, so the crew lowered the sail.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

2. Because the wind strengthened, the crew lowered the sail.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

3. Keira checked the measurements, and Tomas recorded them.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

4. Although the design was unusual, it proved effective.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

5. The lights dimmed but her performance continued.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

6. The performance continued while the technician adjusted the sound.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

7. We can inspect the fossil as we can study the digital model.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

8. Unless the battery is charged, the device will not start.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

9. The river rose overnight, yet the bridge remained open.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

10. The bridge remained open although the river had risen overnight.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

11. The team revised the plan, for new evidence had emerged.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

12. After the data were checked, the report was published.

☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX



EVIDENCE CHALLENGE

Choose two sentence numbers. Explain how the clauses prove each classification.

Sentence ____: _____

Sentence ____: _____



COMPOUND OR COMPLEX?



PROVE IT WITH CLAUSE EVIDENCE



Separate the clauses with a slash. Underline the joining word. Then tick COMPOUND or COMPLEX. Decide from the clause structure—not from one word alone.

1. The wind strengthened, / so the crew lowered the sail.

☒ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

2. Because the wind strengthened, / the crew lowered the sail.

☐ COMPOUND ☒ COMPLEX

3. Keira checked the measurements, / and Tomas recorded them.

☒ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

4. Although the design was unproven, / it proved effective.

☐ COMPOUND ☒ COMPLEX

5. The lights dimmed, / the performance continued.

☒ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

6. The performance continued / while the technicians adjusted the sound.

☐ COMPOUND ☒ COMPLEX

7. We can inspect the fossil, / so we can study the digital model.

☒ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

8. Unless the battery is charged, / the device will not work.

☐ COMPOUND ☒ COMPLEX

9. The river rose overnight, / yet the bridge remained open.

☒ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

10. The bridge remained open / although the river had risen overnight.

☐ COMPOUND ☒ COMPLEX

11. The team revised the plan, / for new evidence had emerged.

☒ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX

12. After the data were checked, / the report was published.

☐ COMPOUND ☒ COMPLEX



EVIDENCE CHALLENGE

Choose two sentence numbers. Explain how the clauses prove each classification.

Sentence 1: Two independent clauses are joined by the coordinating conjunction so.

Sentence 2: A subordinate clause beginning with Because is joined to a main clause.

Name: _____

Date: _____



CONJUNCTION CHOICES

MATCH THE RELATIONSHIP



Circle the subordinating conjunction that creates the intended meaning.
Then name the relationship: time, reason, condition or contrast.

1. ____ the warning light flashed, the technician stopped the test. (When / Although / Until)
Relationship: _____
2. The team repeated the trial ____ one reading seemed unusual. (because / until / whereas)
Relationship: _____
3. ____ the forecast improves, the expedition will remain at base. (unless / until / Although)
Relationship: _____
4. The drone returned safely ____ the wind was strong. (although / because / when)
Relationship: _____
5. We can release the model ____ the final safety check is complete. (after / unless / whereas)
Relationship: _____
6. ____ the two solutions look similar, their results are different. (Although / Because / Until)
Relationship: _____
7. The archive will open the files ____ the password is correct. (if / while / because)
Relationship: _____
8. The astronomer watched on screen ____ the telescope tracked the comet. (while / unless / although)
Relationship: _____
9. The planes were moved indoors ____ frost was expected. (because / whereas / until)
Relationship: _____
10. ____ the signal becomes clearer, the pilot will continue circling. (Until / Although / Because)
Relationship: _____

EXPLAIN ONE CHOICE

Choose one item. Explain how your conjunction makes the relationship clear.

Item ____:



CONJUNCTION CHOICES

MATCH THE RELATIONSHIP



Circle the subordinating conjunction that creates the intended meaning.
Then name the relationship: time, reason, condition or contrast.

1. When the warning light flashed, the technician stopped the test. (When / Although / Unless)
Relationship: time
2. The team repeated the trial because one reading seemed unusual. (because / until / whereas)
Relationship: reason
3. Unless the forecast improves, the expedition will remain on base. (Unless / After / Although)
Relationship: condition
4. The drone returned safely although the wind was strong. (although / because / when)
Relationship: contrast
5. We can release the model after the final safety checks are complete. (after / unless / whereas)
Relationship: time
6. Although the two solutions look similar, their results are different. (Although / Because / Until)
Relationship: contrast
7. The archive will open the files if the password is correct. (if / while / because)
Relationship: condition
8. The astronomer watched the screen while the telescope tracked the comet. (while / unless / although)
Relationship: time
9. The plants were moved indoors because frost was expected. (because / whereas / until)
Relationship: reason
10. Until the signal becomes clearer, the pilot will continue circling. (Until / Although / Because)
Relationship: time

EXPLAIN ONE CHOICE

Choose one item. Explain how your conjunction makes the relationship clear.

Item 4 :

Although signals contrast: the drone returned safely despite the strong wind.

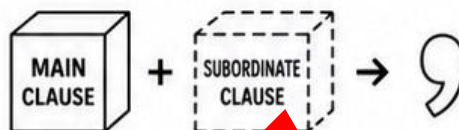
Name: _____

Date: _____

BUILD AND PUNCTUATE

PAGE 1 — TWO VALID ORDERS

Join each main clause and subordinate clause in two ways.
Write the main clause first, then write the subordinate clause first.
Add punctuation accurately.



Subordinate clause first → comma before the main clause

- 1** **MAIN:** The research vessel changed course.
SUBORDINATE: because the storm moved closer.

Main first: _____

Subordinate first: _____

- 2** **MAIN:** The camera begins recording.
SUBORDINATE: when the sensor detects movement.

Main first: _____

Subordinate first: _____

- 3** **MAIN:** The seedlings remain covered.
SUBORDINATE: until the temperature rises.

Main first: _____

Subordinate first: _____

- 4** **MAIN:** The team will test the second design.
SUBORDINATE: if the first model fails.

Main first: _____

Subordinate first: _____

- 5** **MAIN:** The hikers reached the shelter.
SUBORDINATE: before the heavy rain began.

Main first: _____

Subordinate first: _____



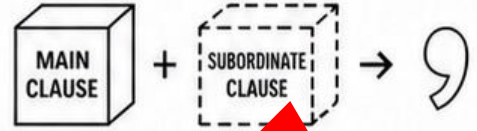
READ IT ALOUD

Does each version keep the same basic meaning?
Which order creates the emphasis you want?

BUILD AND PUNCTUATE

PAGE 1 — TWO VALID ORDERS

Join each main clause and subordinate clause in two ways.
Write the main clause first, then write the subordinate clause first.
Add punctuation accurately.



Subordinate clause first → comma before the main clause

1

MAIN: The research vessel changed course.

SUBORDINATE: because the storm moved closer.

Main first: The research vessel changed course because the storm moved closer.

Subordinate first: Because the storm moved closer, the research vessel changed course.

2

MAIN: The camera begins recording.

SUBORDINATE: when the sensor detects movement.

Main first: The camera begins recording when the sensor detects movement.

Subordinate first: When the sensor detects movement, the camera begins recording.

3

MAIN: The seedlings remain covered.

SUBORDINATE: until the temperature rises.

Main first: The seedlings remain covered until the temperature rises.

Subordinate first: Until the temperature rises, the seedlings remain covered.

4

MAIN: The team will test the second design.

SUBORDINATE: if the first model fails.

Main first: The team will test the second design if the first model fails.

Subordinate first: If the first model fails, the team will test the second design.

5

MAIN: The hikers reached the shelter.

SUBORDINATE: before the heavy rain began.

Main first: The hikers reached the shelter before the heavy rain began.

Subordinate first: Before the heavy rain began, the hikers reached the shelter.



READ IT ALOUD

Does each version keep the same basic meaning?
Which order creates the emphasis you want?

Name: _____

Date: _____



BUILD AND PUNCTUATE

PAGE 2 – REPAIR THE STRUCTURE



SECTION A: COMMA DECISIONS

Rewrite each sentence with accurate punctuation. If no comma is needed, copy it unchanged and write 'no comma needed'.



1. Although the water level was low the kayakers moved cautiously.

2. The sensors remained active while the laboratory was empty.

3. If the signal disappears restart the receiver.

4. The launch continued because the wind remained within limits.

SECTION B: REPAIR THE SENTENCE

Rewrite each pair as one correct complete sentence. Choose a joining word that makes the intended meaning clear.



5. Because the weather station issued a report. The fire team returned to base.

6. The bridge inspection. The engineers found a crack.

7. The lights failed. The performance continued.

8. While the battery charged. The crew reviewed the plan.



STRUCTURE CHECK

One complete main clause? One complete subordinate clause? Joining word accurate? Comma correct?



BUILD AND PUNCTUATE

PAGE 2 – REPAIR THE STRUCTURE



SECTION A: COMMA DECISIONS

Rewrite each sentence with accurate punctuation. If no comma is needed, copy it unchanged and write 'no comma needed'.



1. Although the water level was low the kayakers moved cautiously.

Although the water level was low, the kayakers moved cautiously.

2. The sensors remained active while the laboratory was empty.

The sensors remained active while the laboratory was empty. (no comma needed)

3. If the signal disappears restart the receiver.

If the signal disappears, restart the receiver.

4. The launch continued because the wind remained within safe limits.

The launch continued because the wind remained within safe limits. (no comma needed)

SECTION B: REPAIR THE SENTENCE

Rewrite each pair as one correct compound sentence. Choose a joining word that makes the intended meaning clear.



5. Because the weather station issued an alert. The field team returned to base.

Because the weather station issued an alert, the field team returned to base.

6. The bridge inspection ended. The engineers found a crack.

The bridge inspection ended after the engineers found a crack.

7. The lights flickered. The performance continued.

Although the lights flickered, the performance continued.

8. While the battery charged. The crew reviewed the plan.

While the battery charged, the crew reviewed the plan.



STRUCTURE CHECK

One complete main clause? One complete subordinate clause? Joining word accurate? Comma correct?

Name: _____

Date: _____

EMBEDDED CLAUSE INVESTIGATOR

PAGE 1 — FIND AND LABEL

The sculpture,  stood near the entrance.

In each sentence, underline the antecedent (the noun being described), circle the relative word, and place brackets around the embedded relative clause.



1. The sculpture, which was carved from recycled timber, stood near the entrance.

Antecedent: _____ Relative word: _____

2. Students who finished early checked their evidence.

Antecedent: _____ Relative word: _____

3. The guide whose voice carried across the hall welcomed the group.

Antecedent: _____ Relative word: _____

4. Our bus, which arrived ten minutes late, stopped outside the museum.

Antecedent: _____ Relative word: _____

5. The scientist who developed the meter received an award.

Antecedent: _____ Relative word: _____

6. The river, which flows through the valley, supports many habitats.

Antecedent: _____ Relative word: _____

7. The shelter where the hikers rested overlooked the lake.

Antecedent: _____ Relative word: _____

8. My neighbour, who volunteers at the library, recommended the novel.

Antecedent: _____ Relative word: _____



INVESTIGATOR'S TIP

The antecedent is the noun or noun group that the relative clause describes.

EMBEDDED CLAUSE INVESTIGATOR

PAGE 1 — FIND AND LABEL

The sculpture,
the entrance.



stood near

In each sentence, underline the antecedent (the noun being described), circle the relative word, and place brackets around the embedded relative clause.



1. The sculpture, which was carved from recycled timber, stood near the entrance.

Antecedent: The sculpture

Relative word: which

2. Students who finished early checked their evidence.

Antecedent: Students

Relative word: who

3. The guide whose voice carried across the hall welcomed the group.

Antecedent: The guide

Relative word: whose

4. Our bus, which arrived ten minutes late, stopped outside the museum.

Antecedent: Our bus

Relative word: which

5. The scientist who designed the filter received an award.

Antecedent: The scientist

Relative word: who

6. The river which winds through the valley, supports many habitats.

Antecedent: The river

Relative word: which

7. The shelter where the hikers rested overlooked the lake.

Antecedent: The shelter

Relative word: where

8. My neighbour, who volunteers at the library, recommended the novel.

Antecedent: My neighbour

Relative word: who



INVESTIGATOR'S TIP

The antecedent is the noun or noun group that the relative clause describes.

Name: _____

Date: _____



EMBEDDED CLAUSE INVESTIGATOR

PAGE 2 — MEANING AND COMMAS



Read the context. Tick ESSENTIAL if the relative clause identifies which person or thing. Tick EXTRA if the sentence is already clear without it. Rewrite the sentence, adding commas only around extra information.

1. Context: Our school has one school captain.
Our school captain who organised the fundraiser spoke at assembly. ☐ ESSENTIAL ☐ EXTRA
Rewrite: _____
2. Context: Several students entered the design competition.
The student who designed the solar car won the prize. ☐ ESSENTIAL ☐ EXTRA
Rewrite: _____
3. Context: The museum stores many fossils.
The fossil that was found near the coast is a dinosaur. ☐ ESSENTIAL ☐ EXTRA
Rewrite: _____
4. Context: There is only one place called the Bluegum Library in this town.
The Bluegum Library which opened on Monday now has a makerspace. ☐ ESSENTIAL ☐ EXTRA
Rewrite: _____
5. Context: Several jackets were hanging near the door.
The jacket that has reflective strips belongs to Amina. ☐ ESSENTIAL ☐ EXTRA
Rewrite: _____
6. Context: Tidal Bay is one named location.
Tidal Bay where we completed the survey is a protected area. ☐ ESSENTIAL ☐ EXTRA
Rewrite: _____

MEANING CHECK

What could happen to the meaning if an essential relative clause were removed?



EMBEDDED CLAUSE INVESTIGATOR

PAGE 2 — MEANING AND COMMAS



Read the context. Tick ESSENTIAL if the relative clause identifies which person or thing. Tick EXTRA if the sentence is already clear without it. Rewrite the sentence, adding commas only around extra information.

1. Context: Our school has one school captain.
Our school captain who organised the fundraiser spoke at assembly. ☒ ESSENTIAL ☐ EXTRA
Rewrite: Our school captain, who organised the fundraiser spoke at assembly.
2. Context: Several students entered the design competition.
The student who designed the solar car won the prize. ☐ ESSENTIAL ☐ EXTRA
Rewrite: The student who designed the solar car won the prize.
3. Context: The museum stores many fossils.
The fossil that was found near the coast is on display. ☒ ESSENTIAL ☐ EXTRA
Rewrite: The fossil that was found near the coast is on display.
4. Context: There is only one place called the Bluegum Library in this town.
The Bluegum Library which reopened on Monday now has a makerspace. ☐ ESSENTIAL ☒ EXTRA
Rewrite: The Bluegum Library, which reopened on Monday, now has a makerspace.
5. Context: Several jackets are hanging near the door.
The jacket that has reflective strips belongs to Amina. ☒ ESSENTIAL ☐ EXTRA
Rewrite: The jacket that has reflective strips belongs to Amina.
6. Context: Tidal Bay is one named location.
Tidal Bay where we completed the survey is a protected area. ☐ ESSENTIAL ☒ EXTRA
Rewrite: Tidal Bay, where we completed the survey, is a protected area.

MEANING CHECK

What could happen to the meaning if an essential relative clause were removed?

The reader might not know which person or thing is meant.

The sentence could become too general or change meaning.

Name: _____

Date: _____



ADD EMBEDDED CLAUSES



EXPAND WITH PRECISION

Add an embedded relative clause to each sentence frame. Use **who**, **whose**, **which**, **that** or **where**. Add commas only when the clause gives extra information.

1. Our science teacher _____ demonstrated the new sensor. (add extra information)

2. The sailing boat _____ returned to the marina. (identify which)

3. The gallery _____ will host the student exhibition. (add extra information)

4. The young engineer _____ presented her prototype. (identify which engineer)

5. The document _____ won an award. (identify which documentary)

6. The wetland reserve _____ supports migratory birds. (add extra information)

EDITING CHALLENGE

Context: Only one robot is being discussed.

The robot which won the competition delivered medicine to the clinic.

Instruction: Rewrite the sentence with accurate punctuation.

Essential = no commas.

Extra = commas around the relative clause.



ADD EMBEDDED CLAUSES



EXPAND WITH PRECISION

Add an embedded relative clause to each sentence frame. Use **who**, **whose**, **which**, **that** or **where**. Add commas only when the clause gives extra information.

1. Our science teacher _____ demonstrated the new sensor. (add extra information)

Our science teacher, who studies robotics, demonstrated the new sensor.

2. The sailing boat _____ returned to the marina. (identify which boat)

The sailing boat that carried the rescue flag returned to the marina.

3. The gallery _____ will host the student exhibition. (add extra information)

The gallery, which reopened last month, will host the student exhibition.

4. The young engineer _____ presented her prototype. (identify which engineer)

The young engineer who designed renewable energy use presented her prototype.

5. The documentary _____ won an award. (identify which documentary)

The documentary that explored deep-sea habitats won an award.

6. The wetland reserve _____ supports migratory birds. (add extra information)

The wetland reserve, where volunteers monitor waterbirds, supports migratory birds.

EDITING CHALLENGE

Context: Only one robot is being discussed.

The robot which won the competition delivered medicine to the clinic.

Instruction: Rewrite the sentence with accurate punctuation.

The robot, which won the competition, delivered medicine to the clinic.

Essential = no commas.

Extra = commas around the relative clause.

Name: _____

Date: _____



SENTENCE VARIETY EDITING

TURN CHOPPY IDEAS INTO COHESIVE WRITING



A READ THE DRAFT

Circle repeated sentence openings. Underline ideas that could be connected.

The eco-club met after school. The weather was hot. They walked to a creek.
They carried testing kits. The water looked clear. The students noticed plants
near the reeds. They collected it. They recorded their results. Then they began
to set. They returned to school.

B REVISE FOR FLOW

Rewrite the draft as a cohesive paragraph. Keep every important idea,
but combine and reorder sentences to improve the flow.



INCLUDE

- ☐ an introductory subordinate clause
- ☐ a subordinate clause after a main clause
- ☐ an embedded relative clause
- ☐ accurate commas

C EXPLAIN ONE CHOICE

Quote one revised sentence. Explain how its structure improves the paragraph.



Variety should make meaning clearer—not simply make sentences longer.



SENTENCE VARIETY EDITING

TURN CHOPPY IDEAS INTO COHESIVE WRITING



A READ THE DRAFT

Circle repeated sentence openings. Underline ideas that could be connected.

The eco-club met after school. The weather was hot. They walked to the creek. They carried testing kits. The water looked clear. The students noticed plastic near the reeds. They collected it. They recorded their results. The sun began to set. They returned to school.

B REVISE FOR FLOW

Rewrite the draft as a cohesive paragraph. Keep every important idea, but combine and reorder sentences to improve the flow.

When the eco-club met after school, the weather was hot, but they walked to the creek while they carried testing kits. The water, which looked clear, had plastic near the reeds, so the students collected it before they recorded their results. As the sun began to set, they returned to school.

INCLUDE

- ☒ an introductory subordinate clause
- ☒ a subordinate clause after a main clause
- ☒ an embedded relative clause
- ☒ accurate commas

C EXPLAIN ONE CHOICE

Quote one revised sentence. Explain how its structure improves the paragraph.

'As the sun began to set, they returned to school.' Opening with the time clause links the events and gives the ending a clear sequence.



Variety should make meaning clearer—not simply make sentences longer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

INDEPENDENT WRITING CHALLENGE

CRAFT A COHESIVE PARAGRAPH



CHOOSE A PROMPT

- ☐ Explain how a community could reduce plastic waste.
- ☐ Describe a moment when a team adapted to an unexpected change.
- ☐ Explain a process that you know well.



PLAN THE RELATIONSHIPS

MAIN IDEA

TIME

REASON OR CONDITION

CONTRAST OR EXTRA DETAIL



WRITE

Write one cohesive paragraph (6–8 sentences). Use at least four complex sentences, but vary the structures so the paragraph sounds natural.



SELF-CHECK

- ☐ introductory subordinate clause + comma
- ☐ subordinate clause after a main clause
- ☐ embedded relative clause
- ☐ clear conjunction choices
- ☐ varied sentence openings
- ☐ every sentence is complete



Underline your strongest complex sentence. In the margin, label its main clause MC and subordinate clause SC.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 20



SENTENCE CRAFT ASSESSMENT



PAGE 1 — ANALYSE AND PUNCTUATE

SECTION A: CLAUSE STRUCTURE — 6 marks

For each sentence, box the main clause, place brackets around the subordinate clause and circle the subordinating conjunction.

1. Although the drone lost altitude, the operator kept it within sight. [3]
2. The operator landed the drone after the battery warning appeared. [3]

SECTION B: COMPOUND OR COMPLEX? — 4 marks

Tick the classification and give one piece of clause evidence.

3. The clouds lifted, so the rescue helicopter departed.
☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX [2]

Evidence: _____

4. The helicopter departed when the clouds lifted.
☐ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX [2]

Evidence: _____

SECTION C: CONJUNCTION MATCHING — 4 marks

Circle the best conjunction to complete the sentences.

5. _____ the water sample was cloudy, the team repeated the test. (Because / Unless / After) [2]

Relationship: _____

6. The exhibition will open _____ the safety check is complete. (although / after / because) [2]

Relationship: _____

SECTION D: PUNCTUATION CONTROL — 6 marks

Rewrite each sentence with accurate punctuation.

7. If the temperature drops cover the seedlings. [2]

8. Context: Beacon Point has one named lighthouse.
Beacon Point Lighthouse which was built in 1887 still guides ships. [4]

Check that every answer contains the words and punctuation you intend.



SENTENCE CRAFT ASSESSMENT

PAGE 1 — ANALYSE AND PUNCTUATE



SECTION A: CLAUSE STRUCTURE — 6 marks

For each sentence, box the main clause, place brackets around the subordinate clause and circle the subordinating conjunction.

1. Although the drone lost altitude, the operator kept it within sight. [3]
2. The operator landed the drone [after the battery warning appeared]. [3]

SECTION B: COMPOUND OR COMPLEX? — 4 marks

Tick the classification and give one piece of clause evidence.

3. The clouds lifted, so the rescue helicopter departed.
☒ COMPOUND ☐ COMPLEX [2]

Evidence: Two independent clauses are joined by the coordinating conjunction so.

4. The helicopter departed when the clouds lifted.
☐ COMPOUND ☒ COMPLEX [2]

Evidence: A main clause is joined to the subordinate clause when the clouds lifted.

SECTION C: CONJUNCTION MEANING — 4 marks

Circle the best conjunction and name the relationship.

5. Because the water sample was contaminated, the team repeated the test. (Because / Unless / After) [2]

Relationship: reason

6. The expedition was open after the safety check is complete. (although / after / because) [2]

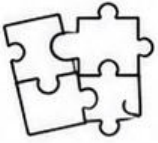
Relationship: time

SECTION D: PUNCTUATION CONTROL — 6 marks

Rewrite each sentence with accurate punctuation.

7. If the temperature drops cover the seedlings. [2]
If the temperature drops, cover the seedlings.

8. Context: Beacon Point has one named lighthouse.
 Beacon Point Lighthouse which was built in 1887 still guides ships. [4]
Beacon Point Lighthouse, which was built in 1887, still guides ships.



SENTENCE CRAFT ASSESSMENT

PAGE 2 — CONSTRUCT AND EDIT



SECTION A: CONSTRUCT COMPLEX SENTENCES — 8 marks

9. **MAIN:** The field team delayed the survey.
SUBORDINATE: because the river was rising.
 Combine the clauses in both valid orders.

[4]

Main first: _____

Subordinate first: _____

10. **MAIN:** The robot may enter the tunnel.
SUBORDINATE: if the air-quality reading is safe.

Write one accurate complex sentence. Then underline the main clause and place it around the subordinate clause. [4]

SECTION B: EMBEDDED RELATIVE CLAUSES — 6 marks

11. The scientist _____ the results.
 Add an essential relative clause that identifies which scientist. Rewrite the complete sentence.

[3]

12. **Context:** Only one coastal research centre is being discussed.
 The Coastal Research Centre, which opened in 2019 hosts visiting students.
 Rewrite the sentence with a relative clause.

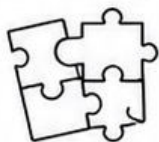
[3]

SECTION C: EDIT FOR COHESION — 6 marks

The team reached the lookout. The fog was thick. They waited. The fog lifted. They photographed the valley.

Rewrite the draft as 2–3 cohesive sentences. Include an introductory subordinate clause, a subordinate clause after a main clause and accurate commas.

[6]



SENTENCE CRAFT ASSESSMENT

PAGE 2 — CONSTRUCT AND EDIT



SECTION A: CONSTRUCT COMPLEX SENTENCES — 8 marks

9. **MAIN:** The field team delayed the survey.
SUBORDINATE: because the river was rising.
 Combine the clauses in both valid orders.

[4]

Main first: The field team delayed the survey because the river was rising.

Subordinate first: Because the river was rising, the field team delayed the survey.

10. **MAIN:** The robot may enter the tunnel.
SUBORDINATE: if the air-quality reading is safe.

Write one accurate complex sentence. Then underline the main clause and place it around the subordinate clause.

[4]

The robot may enter the tunnel [if the air-quality reading is safe].

SECTION B: EMBEDDED RELATIVE CLAUSES — 6 marks

11. The scientist **who led the coastal study** presented the results.

Add an essential relative clause that identifies which scientist. Rewrite the complete sentence.

[3]

The scientist who led the coastal study presented the results.

12. **Context:** Only one coastal research centre is being discussed.

The Coastal Research Centre, which opened in 2019, hosts visiting students.

Rewrite the sentence with accurate punctuation.

[3]

The Coastal Research Centre, which opened in 2019, hosts visiting students.

SECTION C: WRITING FOR COHESION — 6 marks

The team reached the lookout. The fog was thick. They waited. The fog lifted. They photographed the valley.

Rewrite the draft as 2–3 cohesive sentences. Include an introductory subordinate clause, a subordinate clause after a main clause and accurate commas.

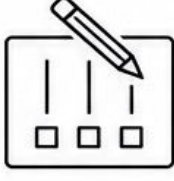
[6]

After the team reached the lookout, they waited because the fog was thick.

When the fog lifted, they photographed the valley.

SENTENCE CRAFT RUBRIC

Complex Sentences — Year 6



Student: _____ Date: _____ Teacher: _____

CRITERION	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
Clause knowledge	Identifies some complete clauses with support.	Identifies some complete clauses with support.	Accurately identifies main, subordinate and embedded clauses.	Analyses varied clause patterns with clear evidence.	Explains subtle structural and meaning effects.
Conjunction meaning	Uses a limited range; links may be unclear.	Selects conjunctions for basic relationships.	Chooses accurately for time, reason, condition and contrast.	Varies conjunctions to shape meaning and emphasis.	Makes precise choices and explains nuanced effects.
Punctuation	Commas and terminal marks are inconsistent.	Adds commas correctly in familiar patterns.	Controls use of essential and non-essential clauses.	Punctuates varied structures and edits errors.	Sustains precise punctuation through complex writing.
Sentence construction	Attempts joins; fragments or run-ons may remain.	Builds simple complex sentences with support.	Constructs accurate complex sentences in varied order.	Integrates subordinate and embedded clauses fluently.	Crafts sophisticated but clear patterns for purpose.
Editing and communication	Revision makes limited change to clarity.	Combines ideas and fixes obvious errors.	Revises for cohesion and explains a choice.	Seeks structures to operate and justify.	Edits for precision, rhythm, cohesion and audience.

Overall judgement:

☐ Beginning

☐ Developing

☐ Achieving

☐ Confident

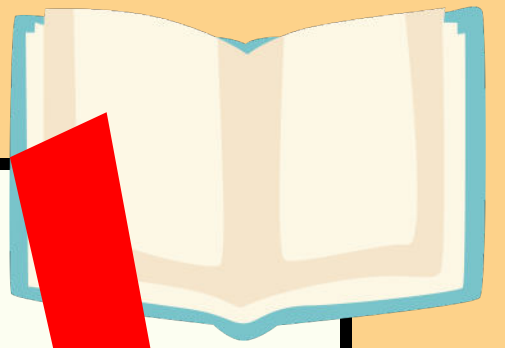
☐ Exceeding

Teacher feedback: _____

Complex Sentences Year 6



Learning Focus



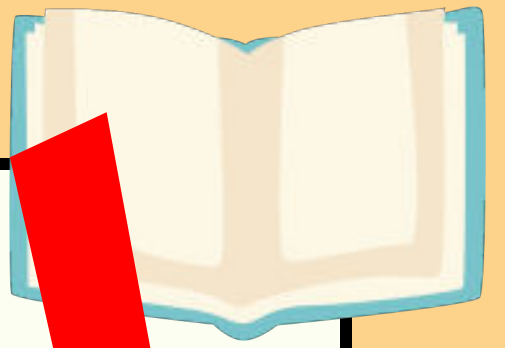
Learning goal: understand how clauses work together to create precise and coherent sentences.

Success criteria

- identify and distinguish simple and embedded clauses
- explain the relationship created by a conjunction
- punctuate clauses accurately
- vary clause order for purpose and effect



What Is a Clause?



A clause is a group of words with a subject and a finite verb.

Main clause: The volunteers packed the equipment.

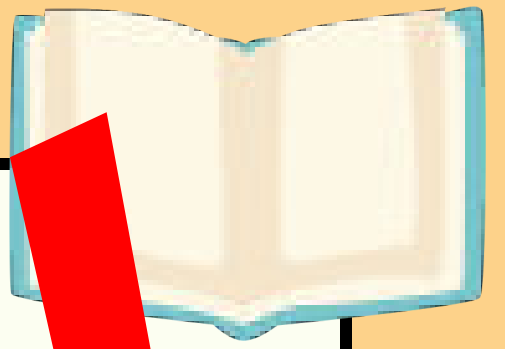
It expresses a complete idea and can stand alone.

Subordinate clause: Because the storm was approaching

it depends on a main clause to complete its meaning.



Main and Subordinate Clauses



Main clause: the kayakers returned to shore

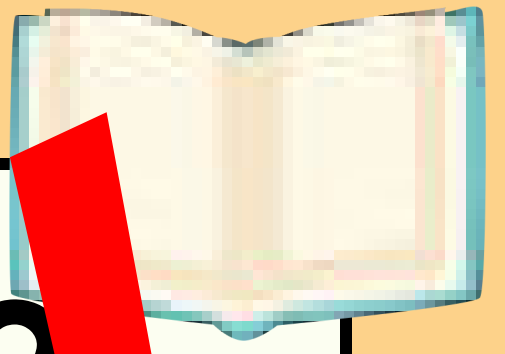
Subordinate clause: although the sea looked calm

A subordinate clause can add a relationship:

- time - when the tide changed
- reason - because the wind strengthened
- condition - if the warning light flashes
- contrast - although the route seemed easy



Simple, Compound or Complex?



Simple – one main clause

The telescope rotated.

Compound – two main clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction

The telescope rotated, and the camera focused.

Complex – one main clause plus at least one subordinate clause

When the telescope rotated, the camera focused.



Coordinating or Subordinating?

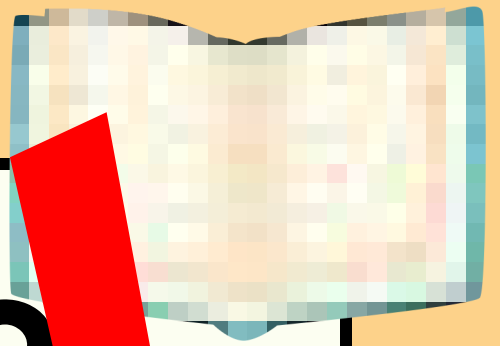
Coordinating conjunctions join equal elements or two main clauses.

FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

Subordinating conjunctions introduce dependent clauses.

Examples: because, although, when, if, unless, while

Remember: in the road flooded, so the event moved indoors, so is coordinating.



Choose by Meaning

Choose the conjunction that matches the intended relationship.

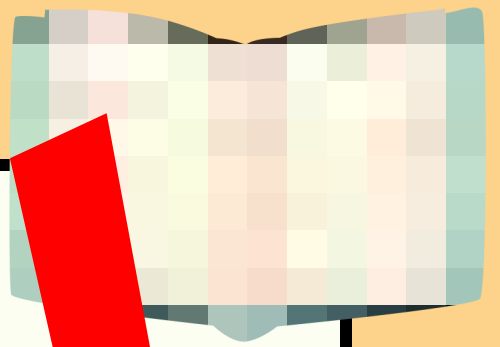
Time: when, before, after, while, until

Reason: because, since, as

Condition: unless, provided that

Contrast: although, even though, whereas

Ask: What logical link should the reader understand?



Clause Order

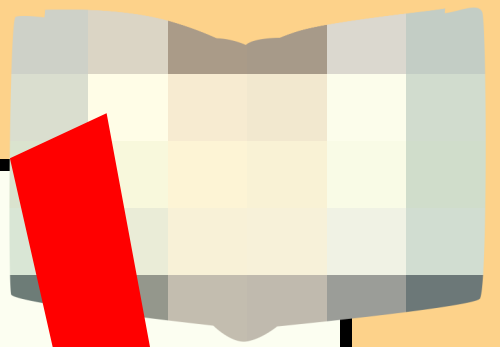
Main clause first

The team began the survey after the rain stopped.

Subordinate clause first

After the rain stopped, the team began the survey.

The first order foregrounds the time. The second order foregrounds timing and needs a comma.



Commas with Introductory Clauses

Introductory subordinate clause

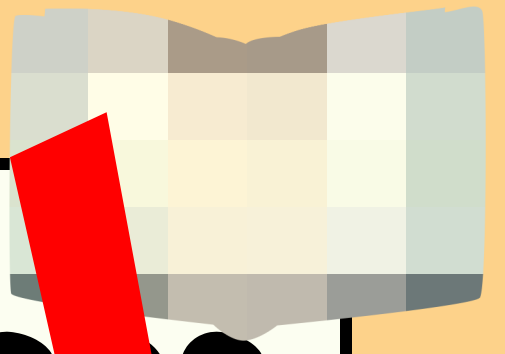
If the temperature drops, cover the seedlings.

Use a comma after the opening subordinate clause.

Subordinate clause after the main clause

Cover the seedlings if the temperature drops.

A comma is unnecessary when the clause is essential to the meaning.

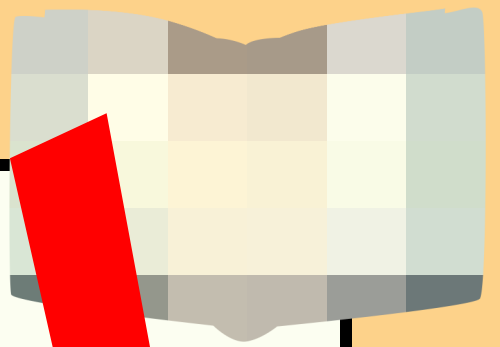


Read the Structure

Sentence: Although the path was narrow, the group continued.

1. Find the finite verbs: *continued*.
2. Bracket the clauses: [Although the path was narrow] [the group continued].
3. Circle the conjunction: Although.
4. The first independent clause and the second clause stands alone.

Conclusion: complex sentence.



Build a Complex Sentence

MAIN: The rescue crew waited at the base.

SUBORDINATE: until the signal was clear.

Main first: The rescue crew waited at the base until the signal was clear.

Subordinate first: Until the signal was clear, the rescue crew waited at the base.

Both are correct and logical; only the introductory order needs a comma.



Embedded Clauses

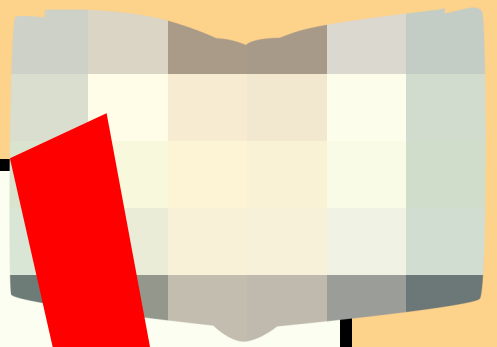
An embedded relative clause sits inside a main clause frame and adds information about a noun.

The engineer, who designed the bridge, inspected the supports.

Antecedent: the engineer

Embedded clause: who designed the bridge

Main clause frame: The engineer ... inspected the supports.



Relative Words

Who - people: the scientist who led the study

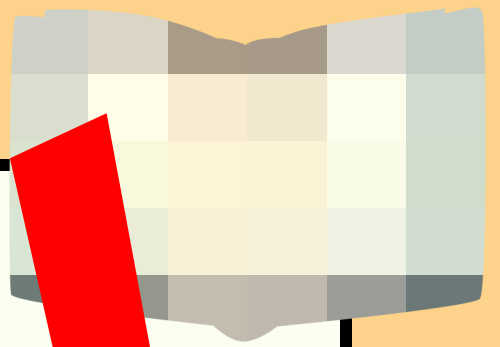
Whose - possession: the student whose mother was

Which - things: the color which determined snail

That - people or things in essential information

Where - places: the bay where the turtles nested

Check that the relative word refers clearly to its antecedent.



Essential or Extra?

Essential information identifies exactly who performed an action.

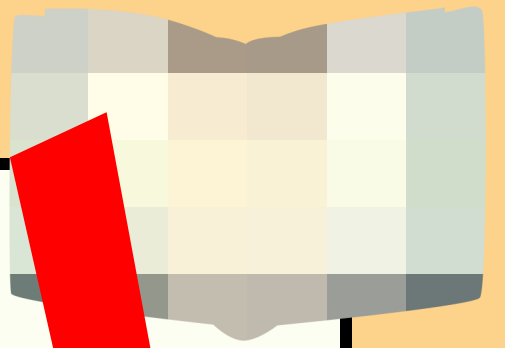
The scientist who led the coastal study presented the findings.

No commas: the clause needed to identify the scientist.

Non-essential information adds extra detail.

Dr. Intel, who led the coastal study, presented the findings.

Use commas before and after the extra information.



Revise for Sentence Variety

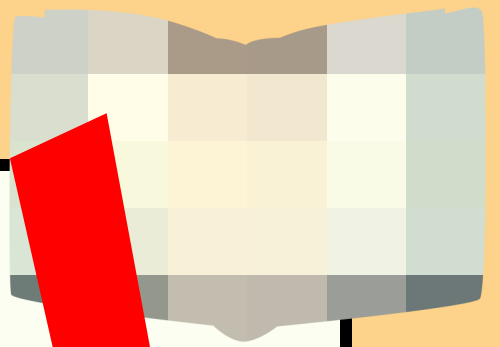
Choppy: The fog was thick. The hikers slowed down. They reached the ridge.

Revised: Because the fog was thick, the hikers slowed down, so they reached the ridge.

The revision:

- shows reason and consequence
- avoids repetition or clumsy splice

varies rhythm while keeping the meaning clear

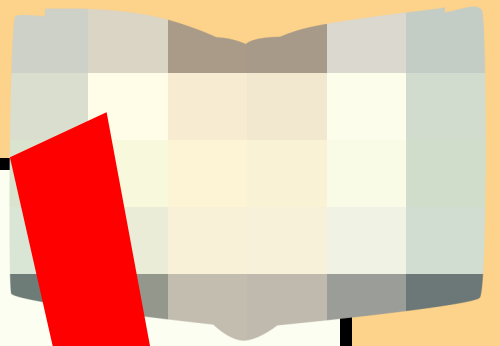


Your Turn

Try these without looking back.

1. Underline the main clause: When the game opened, the crowd moved forward.
2. Add punctuation: Although the weather was bad, the race remained delayed.
3. Combine the clauses: The lights were on. The performance began.
4. Improve: The team arrived. They checked the equipment.

Explain the conjunction or comma choice to a partner.





Well Done!

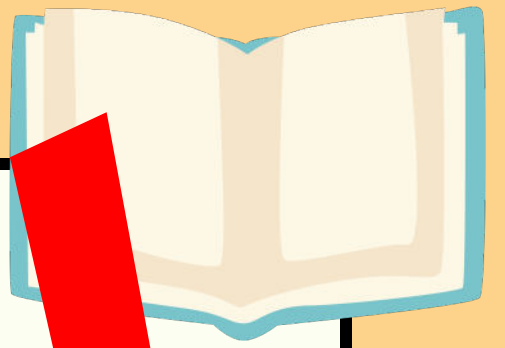
PREVIEW



Complex Sentences Quiz - Year 6



Question 1



Read the sentence:

Although the track was muddy, the runners kept at a steady pace.

Which words form the subordinate clause?

- A The track was muddy.
- B Although the track was muddy
- C the runners kept at a steady pace
- D the runners

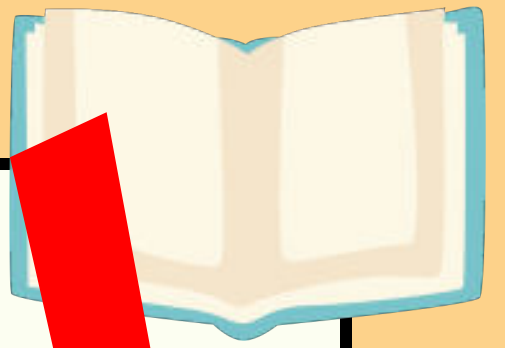


Answer 1

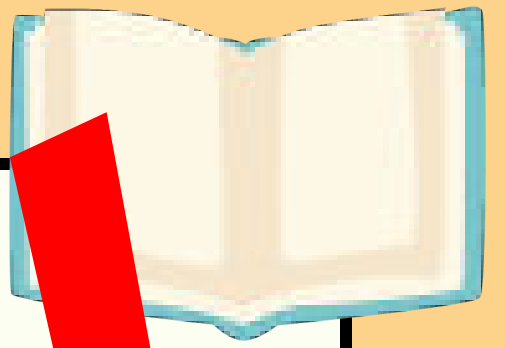
B - Although the track was muddy

It begins with the subordinating conjunction although and cannot stand alone as a complete sentence in this context.

Moreover, the runners kept a steady pace



Question 2



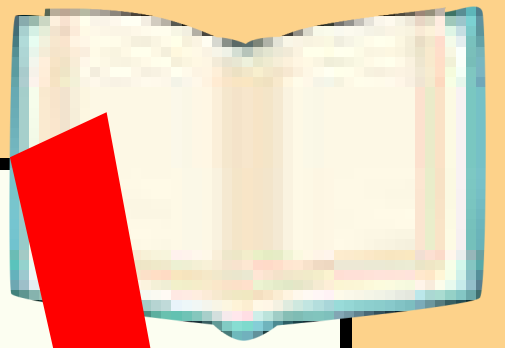
True or false?

A subordinate clause can stand alone as a complete sentence in context.

Be ready to explain your choice.



Answer 2



False.

A subordinate clause depends on a main clause to complete its meaning.

Example: because the lights failed

This reads a main clause: The show paused because the lights failed.



Question 3

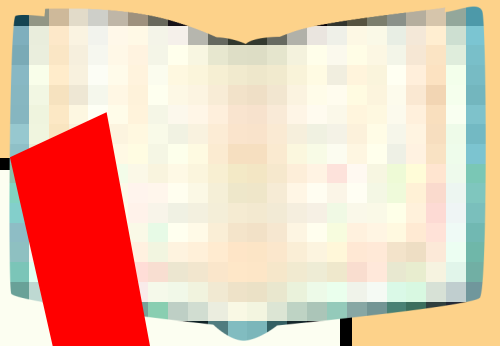
Read the sentence:

When the bell rang, the student packed their equipment.

Write

- the main clause

the subordinating conjunction

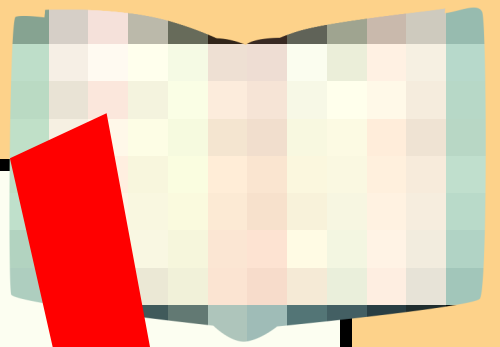


Answer 3

Main clause: the students packed their equipment

Subordinating conjunction: When

The clause When he rang tells when the packing happened.



Question 4

Choose the best conjunction.

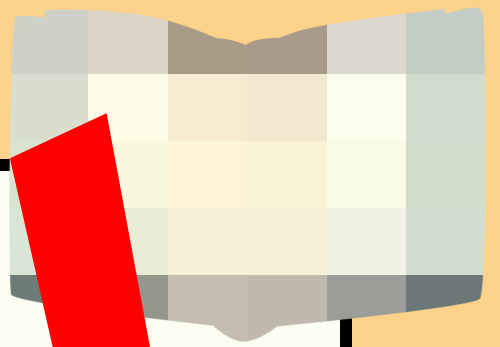
The launch was delayed _____ strong winds were forecast.

A when

B because

C unless

D although

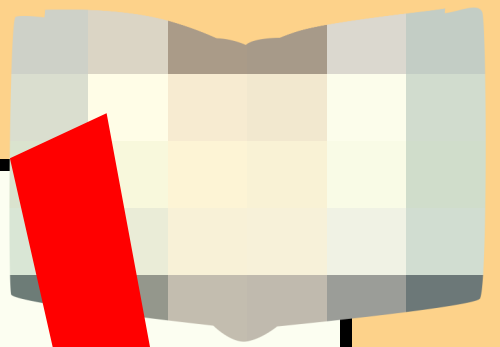


Answer 4

B – because

The conjunction because introduces the reason for the delay.

Complete sentence: The launch was delayed because strong
winds were forecast.

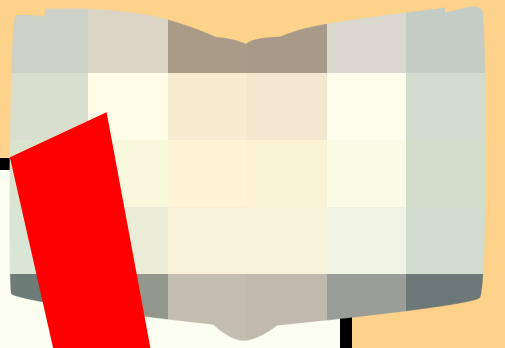


Question 5

True or false?

An introductory subordinating clause is followed by a comma.

Use an example to support your answer.



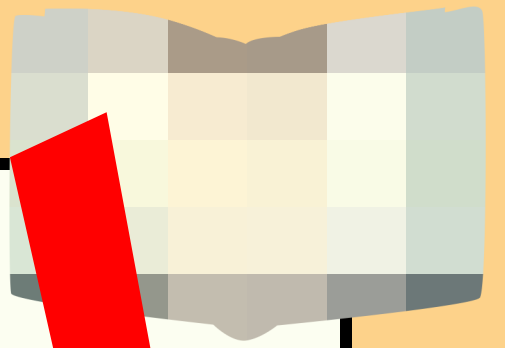
Answer 5

True.

Example: When the siren sounded, the swimmers left the water.

The comma marks the end of the introductory subordinate

clause



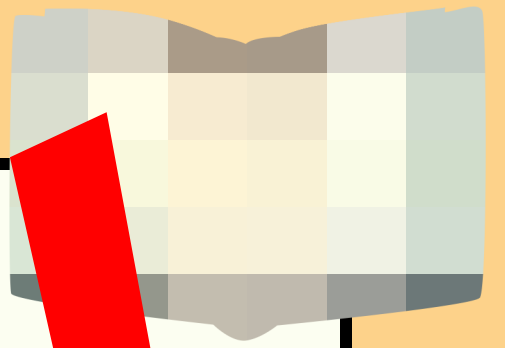
Question 6

Combine these clauses in both valid orders.

MAIN: The campers sheltered under the awning.

SUBORDINATE: While the storm passed.

Write the main-first sentence and one subordinate-first sentence.

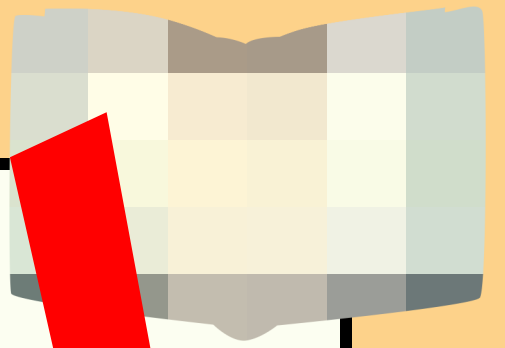


Answer 6

Main first: The campers sheltered under the cabin while the storm passed.

Subordinate first: While the storm raged, the campers sheltered under the cabin.

Only the introductory order requires a comma.

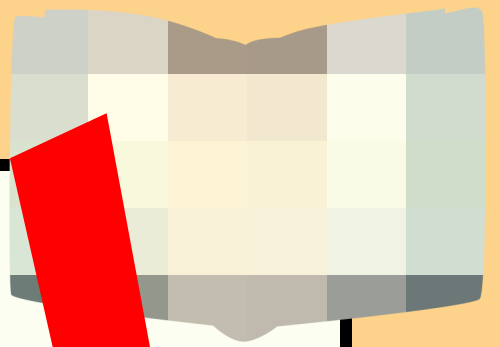


Question 7

Which type of sentence is this?

The tide dropped, so the sea swimmers crossed the inlet.

- A simple
- B compound
- C complex
- D fragment

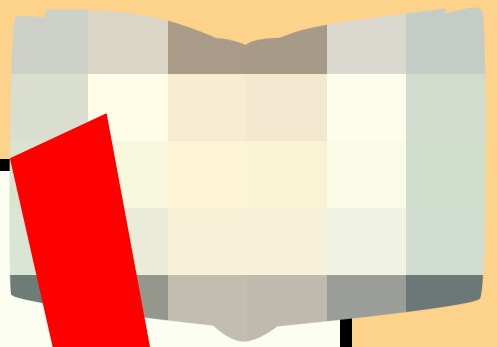


Answer 7

B - compound

The sentence contains two main clauses joined by the coordinating conjunction so.

A complex sentence would contain at least one subordinate clause.



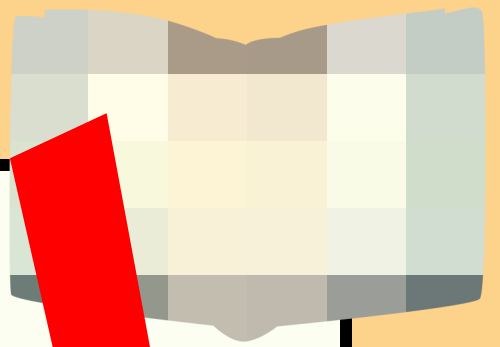
Question 8

Read the sentence:

The scientist who designed the experiment explained its controls.

Identify

- the embedded relative clause
- the antecedent it describes



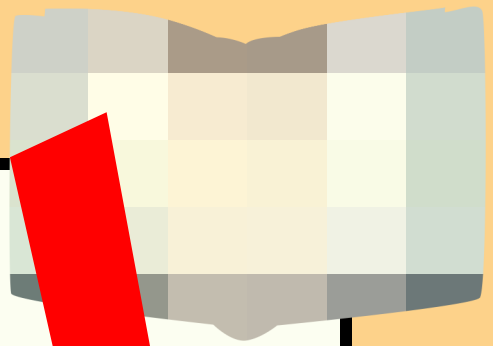
Answer 8

Embedded relative clause: who designed the experiment

Antecedent: the scientist

The clause is embedded inside the main-clause frame:

The scientist explained its controls.

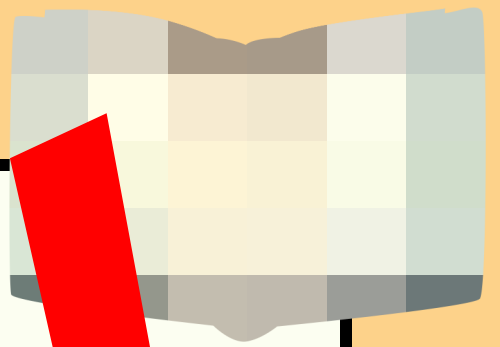


Question 9

True or false?

Every relative clause must be enclosed by commas.

Explain how essential and non-essential information differ.

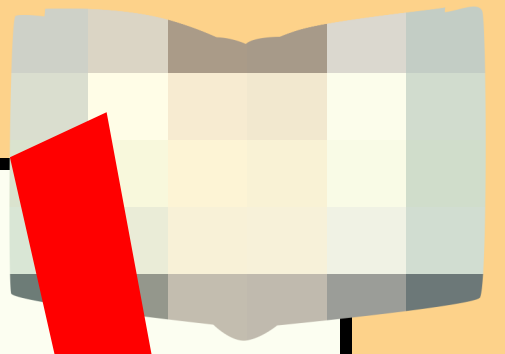


Answer 9

False.

Essential relative clauses identify which person or thing; they do not take commas.

Non-essential relative clauses add extra information; they are enclosed by commas.

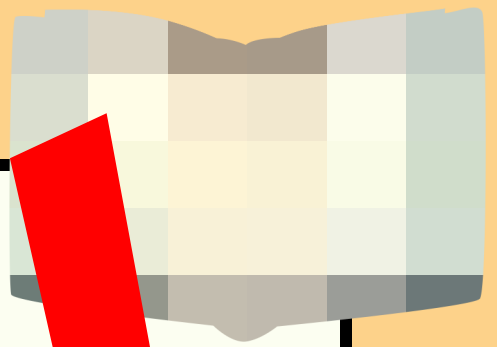


Question 10

Revise the choppy pair as one effective compound sentence.

The sun set. The temperature fell quickly.

Use a subordinating conjunction and accurate punctuation.



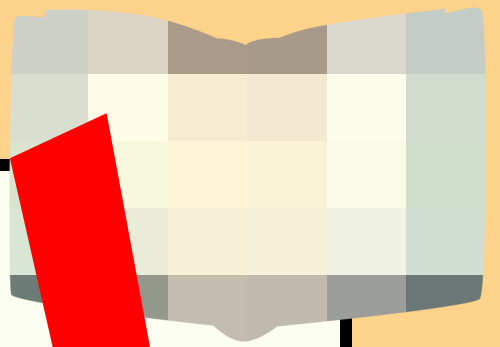
Answer 10

One model answer:

When the sun set, the temperature fell quickly.

The introductory subordinate clause shows time and is followed by a comma.

Other accurate complex sentences may also be accepted.





Well Done!

PREVIEW



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Complex Sentences - Year 6

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COMPLEX SENTENCE TOOLKIT

A complex sentence contains one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE



Makes complete sense on its own.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE



Needs an independent clause to complete its meaning.

TWO USEFUL PATTERNS

- 1 Dependent clause + independent clause
- 2 Independent clause + dependent clause

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS



TIME: after, before, until, when, while



REASON: as, because, since



CONDITION: if, unless



CONCESSION: although, even though, while

DEPENDENT CLAUSE

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

Although the clouds gathered, the hikers continued along the track.



Use a comma after an opening dependent clause.

CLAUSE CONNECTIONS

Independent Clause Cards

Cut out the cards. Match each card with a dependent clause to build a logical complex sentence.



The school garden flourished.



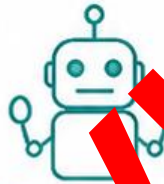
The team continued training.



Mia packed raincoat.



The hikers changed direction.



The robot completed the task.



The concert began.



We will visit the beach.



The seedlings may not survive.



Jordan reread the instructions.



The library remained open.



The class cheered.



The dog waited by the gate.

CLAUSE CONNECTIONS

Dependent Clause Cards

Cut out the cards. Match each card with an independent clause to build a logical complex sentence.



**because the
students watered
it regularly**



**although the
goal was muddy**



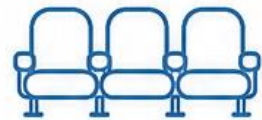
**after she
checked the
forecast**



**when the track
became unsafe**



**because its
sensors were
calibrated**



**after the
audience found
their seats**



**if the weather
stays calm**



**unless the
heatwave ends**



**until the steps
were clear**



**while the
community
meeting
continued**



**because the
final point was
won**



**until its owner
returned**

SENTENCE STRATEGY CHALLENGE



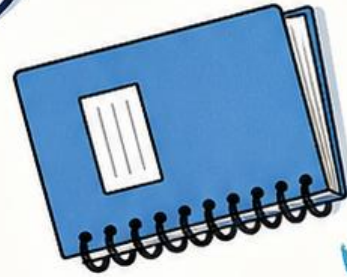
HOW TO PLAY

Roll a die.
Move.

Complete the task
shown on the
space.

Explain your
thinking.

First to FINISH
wins.



SENTENCE STRATEGY CHALLENGE

Task Cards

1

IDENTIFY

Underline the dependent clause:
When the bell rang, the hall emptied.

2

CONNECT

Join with because:
The path was slippery. We walked slowly.

3

CHOOSE

Complete with when or although:
___ the power returned,
the lights flickered.

4

REORDER

Move the dependent clause first:
We stayed inside because the
storm was close.

5

PUNCTUATE

Add the comma:
Although the test was difficult,
Zara stayed calm.

6

REPAIR

Turn this fragment into
a complete sentence:
Because the bus was late.

7

EXPLAIN

What relationship does
unless signal?

8

IDENTIFY

Which clause can stand alone?
While the kettle boiled,
I prepared the cups.

9

CONNECT

Join with although:
The task was challenging.
Sam finished it.

10

CHOOSE

Select if or before:
___ you revise carefully,
you will feel prepared.

11

REORDER

Move the opening clause to the end:
After the match ended,
the crowd applauded.

12

EXPLAIN

How does although change
the relationship between ideas?



CLAUSE DETECTIVE



Worksheet 1 • Page 1

Name: _____

Date: _____



Underline the independent clause. Box the dependent clause. Circle the subordinating conjunction.

1. Because the wind strengthened, the sailing lesson ended early.
2. The audience grew quiet when the lights dimmed.
3. Unless the batteries are charged, the camera will not work.
4. Although the track was steep, Priya maintained a steady pace.
5. We waited near the entrance until the museum opened.
6. While the soup simmered, Dad prepared the salad.
7. If the forecast improves, the class will plant the seedlings tomorrow.
8. The puppy hid beneath the chair because the thunder was loud.



CHALLENGE

Rewrite sentence 4 with the independent clause first. Punctuate it correctly.



CLAUSE DETECTIVE



Worksheet 1 • Page 1

ANSWERS _____

Date: _____



Underline the independent clause. Box the dependent clause. Circle the subordinating conjunction.

1. Because the wind strengthened, the sailing lesson ended early.
2. The audience grew quiet when the lights dimmed.
3. Unless the batteries are charged, the camera will not work.
4. Although the track was steep, Priya maintained a steady pace.
5. We waited near the entrance until the museum opened.
6. While the soup simmered, Dad prepared the salad.
7. If the forecast improves, the class will plant the seedlings tomorrow.
8. The puppy hid beneath the chair because the thunder was loud.



CHALLENGE

Rewrite sentence 4 with the independent clause first. Punctuate it correctly.

Priya maintained a steady pace although the track was steep.



CLAUSE DETECTIVE

Worksheet 1 • Page 2



Name: _____

Date: _____

Read the paragraph, then complete the tasks.

When the final bell rang, our school garden team gathered beside the greenhouse. We carried tools carefully because the path was wet. Although the sky looked grey, everyone remained cheerful. The seedlings would grow well if we planted them deep enough.

- A. Underline each independent clause.
- B. Box each dependent clause.
- C. Circle the four subordinating conjunctions.
- D. Label the relationship in each sentence: time, reason, concession or condition.

	Sentence	Relationship
1		
2		
3		
4		



EXPLAIN

How does the opening dependent clause affect the emphasis of sentence 1?



CLAUSE DETECTIVE

Worksheet 1 • Page 2



ANSWERS _____

Date: _____

Read the paragraph, then complete the tasks.

When the final bell rang, our school garden team gathered beside the greenhouse. We carried tools carefully because the path was wet. Although the sky looked grey, everyone remained cheerful. The seedlings would grow well if if we planted them deeply enough.

- A. Underline each independent clause.
- B. Box each dependent clause.
- C. Circle the four subordinating conjunctions.
- D. Label the relationship in each sentence: time, reason, concession or condition.

	Sentence	Relationship
1		time
2		reason
3		concession
4		condition



EXPLAIN

How does the opening dependent clause affect the emphasis of sentence 1?

It foregrounds when the gathering happened, so the timing is emphasised before the main action.

CONNECT IDEAS WITH MEANING

Worksheet 2 • Page 1

Name: _____

Date: _____



Choose a subordinating conjunction from the box to complete each sentence. Write the relationship: time, reason, condition or concession.



WORD BANK

although • because • before • if • since • unless • until • when

1. _____ the alarm sounded, everyone left the building calmly.

Relationship: _____

2. The match continued _____ the rain became heavier.

Relationship: _____

3. We will launch the model _____ the wind remains light.

Relationship: _____

4. Talia checked the measurements _____ she cut the timber.

Relationship: _____

5. The audience waited _____ the stage crew finished.

Relationship: _____

6. _____ the instructions were clear, the group began quickly.

Relationship: _____

7. The seedlings will dry out _____ we water them.

Relationship: _____

8. The paths were closed _____ the creek had flooded.

Relationship: _____



CHALLENGE

Explain how sentence 2 shows concession.

CONNECT IDEAS WITH MEANING

Worksheet 2 • Page 1

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____



Choose a subordinating conjunction from the box to complete each sentence. Write the relationship: time, reason, condition or concession.



WORD BANK

although • because • before • if • since • unless • until • when

1. **When** the alarm sounded, everyone left the building calmly.
Relationship: **time.**
2. The match continued **although** the rain became heavier.
Relationship: **concession.**
3. We will launch the model **if** the wind remains light.
Relationship: **condition.**
4. Talia checked the measurements **before** she cut the timber.
Relationship: **time.**
5. The audience waited **until** the stage crew finished.
Relationship: **time.**
6. **Because** the instructions were clear, the group began quickly.
Relationship: **reason.**
7. The seedlings will dry out **unless** we water them.
Relationship: **condition.**
8. The paths were closed **since** the creek had flooded.
Relationship: **reason.**



CHALLENGE

Explain how sentence 2 shows concession.

**The rain grew heavier, but the match still continued—
an unexpected contrast.**



CONNECT IDEAS WITH MEANING



Worksheet 2 • Page 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

Combine each pair into one complex sentence. Use the conjunction shown. Then label the relationship.

1. The library was crowded. We found a quiet table. (although)

Answer: _____

Relationship: _____

2. The drone landed. Its battery became low. (when)

Answer: _____

Relationship: _____

3. Wear protective glasses. You begin the experiment. (before)

Answer: _____

Relationship: _____

4. The seedlings will thrive. They receive enough light. (if)

Answer: _____

Relationship: _____

5. We stayed beside the shelter. The hail stopped. (until)

Answer: _____

Relationship: _____

6. Noah revised his design. The first model failed. (because)

Answer: _____

Relationship: _____

REORDER FOR EFFECT

Choose one sentence. Rewrite it with the clauses reversed and punctuate it correctly.



CONNECT IDEAS WITH MEANING



Worksheet 2 • Page 2

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

Combine each pair into one complex sentence. Use the conjunction shown. Then label the relationship.

1. The library was crowded. We found a quiet table. (although)

Answer: **Although the library was crowded, we found a quiet table.**

Relationship: **concession**

2. The drone landed. Its battery became low. (when)

Answer: **The drone landed when its battery became low.**

Relationship: **time**

3. Wear protective glasses. You begin the experiment. (before)

Answer: **Before you begin the experiment, wear protective glasses.**

Relationship: **time**

4. The seedlings will thrive. They receive enough light. (if)

Answer: **The seedlings will thrive if they receive enough light.**

Relationship: **condition**

5. We stayed beside the shelter. The hail stopped. (until)

Answer: **We stayed beside the shelter until the hail stopped.**

Relationship: **time**

6. Noah revised his design. The first model failed. (because)

Answer: **Noah revised his design because the first model failed.**

Relationship: **reason**

REORDER FOR EFFECT

Choose one sentence. Rewrite it with the clauses reversed and punctuate it correctly.

We found a quiet table although the library was crowded.

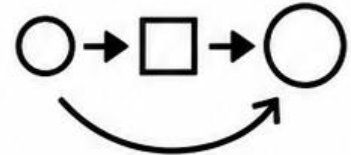
TRANSFORM AND REORDER

Worksheet 3 • Page 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

Rewrite each pair as one complex sentence using the conjunction shown. Preserve the original meaning.



1. The river rose. The walking track closed. (because)

Answer: _____

2. Ava practised every afternoon. The performance felt challenging. (although)

Answer: _____

3. The class will use the outdoor court. The surface is dry. (if)

Answer: _____

4. The volunteers sorted the books. The library opened. (before)

Answer: _____

5. The lights switched on. The sun set. (when)

Answer: _____

6. The cyclists waited. The traffic cleared. (until)

Answer: _____



CHECK

Underline the independent clause in each answer.

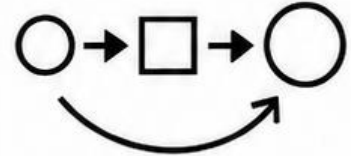
TRANSFORM AND REORDER

Worksheet 3 • Page 1

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

Rewrite each pair as one complex sentence using the conjunction shown. Preserve the original meaning.



1. The river rose. The walking track closed. (because)

Answer: The walking track closed because the river rose.

2. Ava practised every afternoon. The performance was challenging. (although)

Answer: Although the performance felt challenging, Ava practised every afternoon.

3. The class will use the indoor court. The surface is dry. (if)

Answer: The class will use the outdoor court if the surface is dry.

4. The volunteers sorted the books. The library opened. (before)

Answer: Before the library opened, the volunteers sorted the books.

5. The lights switched on. The sun set. (when)

Answer: The lights switched on when the sun set.

6. The cyclists waited. The traffic cleared. (until)

Answer: The cyclists waited until the traffic cleared.



CHECK

Underline the independent clause in each answer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

TRANSFORM AND REORDER

Worksheet 3 • Page 2



Move the dependent clause to the other position.
Add or remove the comma as needed.



1. Because the tide was rising, the group moved higher up the beach.

Rewrite: _____

2. The orchestra tuned quietly while the audience entered.

Rewrite: _____

3. Unless the instructions change, we will follow the original plan.

Rewrite: _____

4. The hikers rested after they reached the lookout.

Rewrite: _____

5. Although the first attempt failed, the team kept testing.

Rewrite: _____

6. The lights will remain off until the presentation begins.

Rewrite: _____

REFLECT

Sentence	What is emphasised first?
1	_____
5	_____

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

TRANSFORM AND REORDER

Worksheet 3 • Page 2



Move the dependent clause to the other position.
Add or remove the comma as needed.



1. Because the tide was rising, the group moved higher up the beach.

Rewrite: The group moved higher up the beach because the tide was rising.

2. The orchestra tuned quietly while the audience entered.

Rewrite: While the audience entered, the orchestra tuned quietly.

3. Unless the instructions change we will follow the original plan.

Rewrite: We will follow the original plan unless the instructions change.

4. The hikers rested after they reached the lookout.

Rewrite: After they reached the lookout, the hikers rested.

5. Although the first attempt failed, the team kept testing.

Rewrite: The team kept testing although the first attempt failed.

6. The lights will remain off until the presentation begins.

Rewrite: Until the presentation begins, the lights will remain off.

REFLECT

Sentence	What is emphasised first?
1	<u>The rising tide (reason)</u>
5	<u>The failed first attempt (concession)</u>

COMPLEX SENTENCE CRAFT

Worksheet 4

Name: _____

Date: _____



Craft a complex sentence for each purpose.
Use a precise conjunction and punctuate it correctly.



A. REASON

Explain why the community garden succeeded. Use because or since.



B. TIME

Describe two actions at the sports carnival. Use when, while or after.



C. CONDITION

Write a safety rule. Use if or unless.



D. CONCESSION

Show an unexpected result. Use although or even though.



IMPROVE IT

Weak version: The storm was loud. We continued rehearsing.
Rewrite it as one complex sentence that shows concession.
Choose a purposeful clause order.



SELF-CHECK

- ☐ one independent clause
- ☐ precise conjunction

- ☐ one dependent clause
- ☐ correct comma

COMPLEX SENTENCE CRAFT

Worksheet 4

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____



Craft a complex sentence for each purpose.
Use a precise conjunction and punctuate it correctly.



A. REASON

Explain why the community garden succeeded. Use because or since.

A. The community garden succeeded because volunteers formed a watering roster.



B. TIME

Describe two actions at the sports carnival. Use when, while or after.

B. While runners completed the relay, spectators cheered.



C. CONDITION

Write a safety rule. Use if or unless.

C. Wear safety goggles if you handle chemicals.



D. CONCESSION

Show an unexpected result. Use although or even though.

D. Although the forecast predicted sun, heavy rain fell.



IMPROVE IT

Weak version: The storm was loud. We continued rehearsing.
Rewrite it as one complex sentence that shows concession.
Choose a purposeful clause order.

Although the storm was loud, we continued rehearsing.



SELF-CHECK

- ☒ one independent clause
- ☒ precise conjunction

- ☒ one dependent clause
- ☒ correct comma

EDIT FOR VARIETY AND EFFECT

Worksheet 5

Name: _____

Date: _____



Read the draft. Diagnose the problems, then rewrite it as a controlled paragraph.



DRAFT

We arrived at the science centre. The doors were not open. Because the bus was early. We waited near the entrance, the rain began. The guide welcomed us. We followed her inside.

TASKS

1. Circle the sentence fragment.
2. Underline the run-on sentence.
3. Repair both errors.
4. Combine at least two other sentences into a complex sentence.
5. Rewrite the full paragraph using at least three sentence types and correct punctuation.

REVISED PARAGRAPH

EDITOR'S CHECK

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ no fragments | ☐ no run-ons |
| ☐ varied sentence types | ☐ purposeful conjunctions |
| ☐ correct commas | |

EDIT FOR VARIETY AND EFFECT

Worksheet 5

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____



Read the draft. Diagnose the problems, then rewrite it as a controlled paragraph.



DRAFT

We arrived at the science centre. The doors were not open.

Because the bus was early. fragment

We waited near the entrance, the rain began.

run-on

The guide welcomed us. We followed her inside.

TASKS

1. Circle the sentence fragment.
2. Underline the run-on sentence.
3. Repair both errors.
4. Combine at least two other sentences into a complex sentence.
5. Rewrite the full paragraph using at least three sentence types and correct punctuation.

REVISED PARAGRAPH

Because the bus was early, we arrived at the science centre before the doors opened. We waited near the entrance until the rain began. When the guide welcomed us, we followed her inside.

EDITOR'S CHECK

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ no fragments | ☒ no run-ons |
| ☒ varied sentence types | ☒ purposeful conjunctions |
| ☒ correct commas | |



COMPLEX SENTENCE MASTERY

Assessment • Page 1



Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 15

PART A • CLASSIFY

Circle Simple, Compound or Complex for each sentence.

- | | | | |
|--|--------|----------|---------|
| 1. The telescope stood beside the window. | Simple | Compound | Complex |
| 2. The clouds cleared, so we began observing. | Simple | Compound | Complex |
| 3. When darkness settled, the first stars appeared. | Simple | Compound | Complex |
| 4. Mila recorded the data and checked the diagram. | Simple | Compound | Complex |
| 5. Although the wind increased, the telescope remained steady. | Simple | Compound | Complex |

PART B • ANALYSE

For each sentence, underline the independent clause, box the dependent clause, circle the conjunction, and name the relationship.

6. Because the experiment required precision, the team checked the measurements twice.

Relationship: _____

7. The equipment remained dry although the rain reached the shelter.

Relationship: _____

PART C • EXPLAIN

8. Why is sentence 4 simple rather than compound?



COMPLEX SENTENCE MASTERY

Assessment • Page 1



Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

Score: **15** / 15

PART A • CLASSIFY

Circle Simple, Compound or Complex for each sentence.

- | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. The telescope stood beside the window. | <u>Simple</u> | Compound | Complex |
| 2. The clouds cleared, so we began observing. | Simple | <u>Compound</u> | Complex |
| 3. When darkness settled, the first stars appeared. | Simple | Compound | <u>Complex</u> |
| 4. Mila recorded the data and checked the diagram. | <u>Simple</u> | Compound | Complex |
| 5. Although the wind increased, the telescope remained steady. | Simple | Compound | <u>Complex</u> |

PART B • ANALYSE

For each sentence, underline the independent clause, box the dependent clause, circle the conjunction, and name the relationship.

6. Because the experiment required precision, the team checked the measurements twice.

Relationship: reason

7. The equipment remained dry although the rain reached the shelter.

Relationship: concession

PART C • EXPLAIN

8. Why is sentence 4 simple rather than compound?

It has one independent clause with a compound predicate: Mila both recorded and checked. It does not contain two independent clauses.

COMPLEX SENTENCE MASTERY

Assessment • Page 2



Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 15



PART D • CONSTRUCT AND EDIT

9. Combine using **although**:

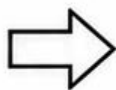
The route was difficult. The team finished on time.

Answer: _____

10. Combine using **because**:

Mara redesigned the bracket. It slipped during testing.

Answer: _____



11. Move the dependent clause to the beginning:

The class will begin testing *after the technician checks the circuit.*

Answer: _____

12. Rewrite with correct punctuation:

If the alarm sounds we will leave immediately.

Answer: _____

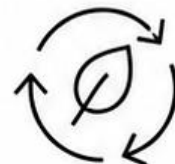


PART E • APPLY IN CONTEXT

13. Write a five-sentence explanation of how a team should plan a school sustainability expo.

Requirements

- Include at least two complex sentences.
- Show two different relationships: *time, reason, condition or concession.*
- Underline each dependent clause.
- Vary the position of the dependent clauses.
- Use accurate punctuation.





FINAL CHECK

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ varied sentence types | ☐ precise conjunctions |
| ☐ purposeful clause order | ☐ correct punctuation |



COMPLEX SENTENCE MASTERY



Assessment • Page 2

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

Score: **15 / 15**



PART D • CONSTRUCT AND EDIT

9. Combine using **although**:

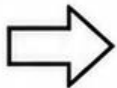
The route was difficult. The team finished on time.

Answer: **Although the route was difficult, the team finished on time.**

10. Combine using **because**:

Mara redesigned the bracket. It slipped during testing.

Answer: **Mara redesigned the bracket because it slipped during testing.**



11. Move the dependent clause to the beginning:

The class will begin testing *after the technician checks the circuit.*

Answer: **After the technician checks the circuit, the class will begin testing.**

12. Rewrite with correct punctuation:

If the alarm sounds we will leave immediately.

Answer: **If the alarm sounds, we will leave immediately.**

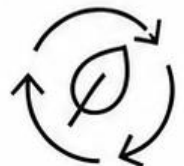


PART E • APPLY IN CONTEXT

13. Write a four- or five-sentence explanation of how a team should plan a school sustainability expo.

Requirements:

- Include at least two complex sentences.
- Show two different relationships: time, reason, condition or concession.
- Underline each dependent clause.
- Vary the position of the dependent clauses.
- Use accurate punctuation.



Before the expo begins, the team should set a clear purpose and timetable.

Members can divide roles because the work includes displays, demonstrations and promotion.

The team should test each exhibit if it uses power or moving parts.

Although plans may change, everyone should record decisions and check progress.

On the final day, the team can welcome visitors and explain how each idea supports sustainability.



FINAL CHECK

- ☒ varied sentence types
- ☒ purposeful clause order

- ☒ precise conjunctions
- ☒ correct punctuation



COMPLEX SENTENCE MASTERY RUBRIC

Year 6 • Teacher Assessment Guide

CRITERION	BEGINNING 1	DEVELOPING 2	ACHIEVING 3	CONFIDENT 4	EXCEEDING 5
IDENTIFY STRUCTURE	Confuses sentences and clauses.	Identifies some prompts with	Accurately identifies independent and dependent clauses and classifies sentence types.	Explains clause roles and compound predicates.	Analyses varied structures precisely.
CONJUNCTIONS AND MEANING	Choices are often incorrect.	Uses familiar conjunctions, but relationships may be unclear.	Selects precise conjunctions for time, reason, condition and concession.	Varies conjunctions while preserving meaning.	Controls subtle logical relationships effectively.
CONSTRUCT AND PUNCTUATE	Fragments or run-ons are common.	Forms basic complex sentences with some errors.	Consistently forms complex and compound sentences.	Controls longer structures and commas.	Writes fluent, error-free varied structures.
CLAUSE ORDER AND EFFECT	Uses one fixed order.	Reorders clauses with support.	Reorders accurately and explains emphasis.	Chooses order deliberately for cohesion.	Shapes emphasis and rhythm strategically.
EDIT AND APPLY	Makes limited corrections.	Fixes obvious errors with prompts.	Edits fragments and run-ons and applies skills in a paragraph.	Improves variety and clarity independently.	Crafts polished, cohesive writing and justifies choices.

TOTAL: ____ / 25

OVERALL COMMENT: _____

NEXT STEP: _____

Complex Sentences



Learning focus

Learning intention

Understand how independent and dependent clauses connect ideas with precise relationships.

Success criteria

Identify clause types

- use conjunctions for meaning
- construct and reorder complex sentences
- edit fragments, run-ons and punctuation



A sentence expresses a complete idea

A sentence communicates a complete thought. It begins with a capital letter and ends with suitable punctuation.

Example: The king slept in the summer.

Ask: Who or what is involved? What happened? Does the idea feel complete?





Clauses are the building blocks

A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb.

The scientist recorded the result.

Subject: the scientist

Verb: recorded

A sentence may contain one clause or several connected clauses.





Independent clauses can stand alone

An independent clause expresses a complete idea and can be a sentence by itself.

The final bell rang.

Our school garden teachers gathered.

Each example has a subject, a verb and a complete meaning.





Dependent clauses need support

A dependent clause has a subject and a verb, but it does not express a complete idea alone.

when the final bell was ringing

because the power was out

though the sky looked clear

It is not possible to stand alone as an independent clause.



Simple sentences



A simple sentence contains one independent clause.
Mila recorded the data and checked the diagram.
This is still simple because one subject, Mila, has a compound predicate. The word
and does not automatically make the sentence compound.



Compound sentences



A compound sentence joins two independent clauses of equal importance.
The clouds cleared, and we began observing.
Both parts could stand alone. Coordinating conjunctions include for, and, nor, but, yet, and so.



Complex sentences



A complex sentence connects one independent clause with at least one dependent clause.

When darkness settled, the first stars appeared.

Dependent: When darkness settled

Independent: the first stars appeared



Subordinating conjunctions



A subordinating conjunction begins a dependent clause and signals how ideas relate.

Reason: because, since, as

Time: when, while, before, after, until

Condition: unless

Contrast: although, even though, while





Reason relationships

Reason tells why something happens

The paths were closed because the creek had flooded.

Because the creek had flooded, the paths were closed.

Conjunctions: because, since, as



Time relationships



Time shows when actions happen and how long they continue.

While the soup simmered, I had prepared the salad.

We waited near the entrance until the museum opened.

Conjunctions: when, while, before, after, until



Condition relationships



Condition shows what must happen for a condition to occur.

If the forecast improves, the class will plant the seedlings.

The seedlings will grow out unless we water them.

Conjunctions: if, unless



Concession relationships



Concession signals an unexpected contrast.
Although the track was slippery, Priya maintained a steady pace.
The difficulty created an expectation, but the independent clause gives a different result.





Clause order changes emphasis

Because the bus was early, we waited near the entrance.

The reason is foregrounded.

We waited near the entrance because the bus was early.

The main action is foregrounded.

The relationship stays the same, but the emphasis changes.





Comma after an opening clause

Use a comma after a dependent clause to start a complex sentence.

When the lights dimmed, the audience grew quiet.

A comma is usually not needed when the independent clause comes first.

The audience grew quiet when the lights dimmed.





Relative clauses add precision

A relative clause adds information about something which begins with who, which or that.

The telescope that stood beside the window remained steady.

Relative clauses help us identify and describe and clarify participants.





Combine without changing meaning

Choose a conjunction that preserves the original relationship.

The first model failed. Noah revised his design.

Noah revised his design because the first model failed.

The conjunction because makes the reason explicit.





Edit fragments and run-ons

Fragment: Because the bus was early,

Repair: Because the bus was early, we waited outside.

Run-on: We waited near the entrance and the rain began.

Repair: We waited near the entrance until the rain began.



Vary sentence structures



Writers combine sentence types to introduce emphasis.

Simple: The guide arrived.

Compound: She packed the cars, and we gathered our bags.

Complex: When she warned us, we followed her inside.

variety supports clarity, rhythm and cohesion.





Guided check

1. Identify the independent and dependent clauses.
Although the wind increased, the telescope remained steady.
 2. Combine: The rain sounded. Everyone left calmly.
 3. Edit: If the alarm sounds, we will leave immediately.
- Explain the relationship and punctuation choice each time.





PREVIEW

Well Done!



Complex Sentences Quiz



Question 1 • True or False

A complex sentence contains at least one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

True or False?



Answer 1

True.

The independent clause expresses a complete idea. The dependent clause adds information and cannot stand alone in that context.



Question 2 · Multiple choice



Which sentence is complex?

- A. The wind howled, and the branches swayed.
- B. When the lights dimmed, the audience grew quiet.
- C. The audience grew quiet.
- D. The lights dimmed and the audience grew quiet.



Answer 2

B. When the lights dimmed, the audience grew quiet.

Dependent clause: When the lights dimmed

Independent clause: the audience grew quiet

Relationship: time



Question 3 · Short answer



Identify the independent clause, dependent clause and subordinating conjunction.

Although the trail was steep, I maintained a steady pace.

What relationship is expressed?



Answer 3

Dependent clause: Although the trail was deep

Independent clause: Mia maintained steady pace

Conjunction: although

Relationship: concessive



Question 4 · Multiple choice



Choose the conjunction that signals cause and effect.
The paths were closed _____ the creek had flooded.

A. although

B. because

D. so



Answer 4

B. because

The paths were closed because the creek had flooded.

The dependent clause explains why the paths were closed.



Question 5 · True or False

A comma is required after an opening dependent clause.
When the final bell rang, the student packed the bag.
True or False?



Answer 5

True.

The dependent clause opens the sentence, and a comma separates it from the independent clause.



Question 6 · Multiple choice



Which sentence is compound?

A. Because the rain stopped, we continued.

B. The rain stopped, and the sun appeared.

C. Although it was cold, the sun continued.

D. The bright sun and clear sky.



Answer 6

B. The rain stopped, and the sun appeared.
Both clauses are independent and the coordinating conjunction and joins them as equals.



Question 7 · Short answer



Combine these ideas with when.

The alarm sounded. Everyone left the building calmly.

Write one correct punctuated complex sentence.



Answer 7

When the alarm sounded, everyone left the building calmly.
The opening dependent clause is followed by a comma.





Question 8 · Multiple choice

Which rewrite correctly moves the dependent clause to the beginning?

The team kept testing although the first attempt failed.

A. Although the first attempt failed the team kept testing.

B. Although the first attempt failed the team kept testing.

C. The team kept testing although the first attempt failed.

D. Although the first attempt failed the team kept testing.



Answer 8

B. Although the first attempt failed, the team kept working.
The opening dependent clause ends with a comma before the independent clause.



Question 9 • Short answer



Repair the fragment and run-on.

Because the bus was early, we waited near the entrance. The rain began.

Write one or two correct sentences.



Answer 9

Because the bus was early, we waited near the entrance until the service began.
This revision completes the opening independent clause and removes the run-on.



Question 10 · Multiple choice



- Which sentence best expresses comparison?
- A. Because the route was difficult, we slowed down.
 - B. Although the route was difficult, we finished on time.
 - C. If the route is difficult, we will slow down.
- When the route became difficult, we slowed down.





Answer 10

B. Although the route was difficult, you finally reached your destination.
Although signals an unexpected contrast between the difficulty and the
successful result.





PREVIEW

Well Done!

