Complex Sentences

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **complex sentence** has a main idea plus a part that cannot stand alone, starting with a word like *because, when, after, if* or *although*: *The cat ran because the dog barked.*

Comma rule: If the sentence starts with the joining word, add a comma: *When the bell rang, we went inside.*



1. Find the joining word

Circle the word that joins the two parts of each complex sentence.

1. We built a snowman because it snowed all night.
2. When the bell rang, we went inside.
3. I will call you after I finish my homework.
4. If it is sunny, we will go to the beach.
5. Max smiled although he was tired.
6. Before we eat, we wash our hands.

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2. Make a complex sentence

Join the two sentences with the word in brackets.

1. I wore my coat. It was cold. (because)

2. The movie ended. We went home. (after)

3. You finish your peas. You can have dessert. (if)

4. The dog barks. Someone knocks. (when)

5. We played outside. It was raining. (although)

Answer Key

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1. Find the joining word

1. We built a snowman **because** it snowed all night.
2. **When** the bell rang, we went inside.
3. I will call you **after** I finish my homework.
4. **If** it is sunny, we will go to the beach.
5. Max smiled **although** he was tired.
6. **Before** we eat, we wash our hands.

2. Make a complex sentence

Other correct answers are possible.

1. I wore my coat. It was cold. (because)
   I wore my coat because it was cold.
2. The movie ended. We went home. (after)
   After the movie ended, we went home.
3. You finish your peas. You can have dessert. (if)
   If you finish your peas, you can have dessert.
4. The dog barks. Someone knocks. (when)
   The dog barks when someone knocks.
5. We played outside. It was raining. (although)
   We played outside although it was raining.