Compound and Complex

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **compound sentence** joins two complete ideas with a comma and *and, but, or* or *so*: *The dog barked, so the cat ran.* 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.*

Quick check: FANBOYS word (and, but, or, so) → compound · because, when, if, after, although → complex



1. Compound or complex?

Circle **compound** or **complex**.

1	The bear was hungry, so it looked for berries.	compound	complex
2	The bear looked for berries because it was hungry.	compound	complex
3	We can swim, or we can play tennis.	compound	complex
4	If it rains, we will play cards.	compound	complex
5	The turtle was slow, but it won the race.	compound	complex
6	After the race ended, everyone cheered.	compound	complex

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2. Write one of each

Use the ideas to write a compound sentence and a complex sentence.

1. It was hot. We went swimming. (compound, use so)

2. It was hot. We went swimming. (complex, use because)

3. I finished my book. I started a new one. (compound, use and)

4. I finished my book. I started a new one. (complex, use after)

Answer Key

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1. Compound or complex?

1	The bear was hungry, so it looked for berries.	**compound**	complex
2	The bear looked for berries because it was hungry.	compound	**complex**
3	We can swim, or we can play tennis.	**compound**	complex
4	If it rains, we will play cards.	compound	**complex**
5	The turtle was slow, but it won the race.	**compound**	complex
6	After the race ended, everyone cheered.	compound	**complex**

2. Write one of each

Answers will vary. These are examples.

1. It was hot. We went swimming. (compound, use so)
   It was hot, so we went swimming.
2. It was hot. We went swimming. (complex, use because)
   We went swimming because it was hot.
3. I finished my book. I started a new one. (compound, use and)
   I finished my book, and I started a new one.
4. I finished my book. I started a new one. (complex, use after)
   After I finished my book, I started a new one.