Simple and Complex

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **simple sentence** has one complete idea: *The dog barked.* 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.*

Add a reason (because ...), **a time** (when, after, before ...) or **a condition** (if ...).

1. Simple or complex?

Circle **simple** or **complex**.



1	The otter floated on its back.	simple	complex
2	The otter floated on its back while it ate a clam.	simple	complex
3	When the wind blows, the kite flies.	simple	complex
4	The kite flies high.	simple	complex
5	We stayed inside because it was cold.	simple	complex
6	We stayed inside.	simple	complex

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2. Make it complex

Add a part with the word in brackets to make a complex sentence.

1. I brushed my teeth. (before)

2. The baby laughed. (when)

3. We will go to the park. (if)

4. Mia felt proud. (because)

5. The crowd cheered. (after)

Answer Key

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1. Simple or complex?

1	The otter floated on its back.	**simple**	complex
2	The otter floated on its back while it ate a clam.	simple	**complex**
3	When the wind blows, the kite flies.	simple	**complex**
4	The kite flies high.	**simple**	complex
5	We stayed inside because it was cold.	simple	**complex**
6	We stayed inside.	**simple**	complex

2. Make it complex

Answers will vary. These are examples.

1. I brushed my teeth. (before)
   I brushed my teeth before I went to bed.
2. The baby laughed. (when)
   The baby laughed when the puppy licked her.
3. We will go to the park. (if)
   We will go to the park if it stops raining.
4. Mia felt proud. (because)
   Mia felt proud because she finished the race.
5. The crowd cheered. (after)
   The crowd cheered after the team scored.