

Complex Sentence Builder: Anchor Chart

1 The Building Blocks

Independent Clause

A **complete thought**. It has a subject and a verb and can stand alone as a sentence.

EXAMPLE

The storm knocked out the power.

Dependent Clause

An **incomplete thought**. It has a subject and a verb but cannot stand alone.

EXAMPLE

Because the storm knocked out the power...

2 Coordinating Conjunctions: FANBOYS → Compound Sentences

F

For
reason

A

And
addition

N

Nor
negative option

B

But
contrast

O

Or
choice

Y

Yet
surprise contrast

S

So
result

Independent clause

,

FANBOYS

Independent clause

I wanted to play outside, **but** it was raining.

3 Subordinating Conjunctions → Complex Sentences

Because

cause

Although

contrast

Since

time / cause

When

time

If

condition

While

time / contrast

Until

time

A subordinating conjunction turns an independent clause into a dependent clause. Join it to an independent clause to build a complex sentence: **Although** I was tired, I finished my homework.

4 The Comma Rule

Dependent first = use a comma

Dependent

,

Independent

When the bell rang, we packed our bags.

Independent first = no comma

Independent

no comma

Dependent

We packed our bags when the bell rang.

Sentence Structure: Tactical Challenge

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 Identify & Fix

Each line below is a sentence fragment. Rewrite it as a complete sentence.

a. Running down the hallway after lunch.

b. Because the bus was late this morning.

2 The Compound Challenge

Combine the two simple sentences into one compound sentence using a comma and a FANBOYS conjunction.

Maya studied all week for the test.

She still felt nervous.

3 The Complex Challenge

Combine the two simple sentences into one complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction. Check the comma rule.

The soccer game was cancelled.

It started to thunder.

4 The Boss Level

Write one original, grammatically perfect complex sentence about your weekend. Underline the dependent clause and circle the subordinating conjunction.
