Commas in Complex Sentences

Practise punctuating clauses in complex and compound sentences.

Name: _____ Date: _____

QUICK REMINDER

When a subordinate clause comes first, put a comma before the main clause. In a compound sentence, put a comma before a coordinating conjunction when it joins two main clauses.

01 Complex sentences

Each sentence begins with a subordinate clause. Insert one comma in each sentence.

1. Although the path was muddy we continued towards the summit.
2. Before the final whistle blew the crowd began to sing.
3. If you leave your bike outside lock it securely.
4. While the ingredients simmered I set the table.
5. Since the library was closing we hurried to choose our books.
6. Whenever the alarm sounds leave the building by the nearest exit.

02 Compound sentences

Add commas where they are needed. Some sentences do not need a comma.

7. I wanted to join the drama club but rehearsals clashed with my football practice.
8. The clouds gathered and the wind grew stronger.
9. We watched the match and cheered for our team.
10. The path was steep yet we kept climbing.
11. Ella searched her bag but could not find her keys.
12. You can borrow my ruler or you can use the one on the desk.

03 Put it into practice

Write one original complex sentence that begins with a subordinate clause. Then write one compound sentence with two main clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction. Add commas where needed.

A Complex sentence:

_____

_____

B Compound sentence:

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