Name _____ Date _____

Complex Sentences

complete sentence + because/when/if/after + part that can't stand alone

A. What kind of sentence? Circle one.

1. The bus was late. (simple / compound / complex)
2. I ran because I was late. (simple / compound / complex)
3. It snowed, and school closed. (simple / compound / complex)
4. When the light turns green, we go. (simple / compound / complex)
5. You can sit, or you can stand. (simple / compound / complex)
6. We read until the sun went down. (simple / compound / complex)

B. Finish each sentence. Add a main idea so it can stand alone.

1. Because it was my birthday

2. When I got home

3. If we hurry

4. After the game ended

C. Join the ideas. Use the word in ( ).

1. I wore *a* coat. It was cold. (because)

2. The lights went out. We lit *a* candle. (when)

3. You finish your homework. You can play. (if)

D. Write your own. Use when, if or although.

Answer Key

A. What kind of sentence?

1. **simple**
2. **complex**
3. **compound**
4. **complex**
5. **compound**
6. **complex**

B. Finish each sentence.

1. Answers will vary, such as "Because it was my birthday**, we had cake.**"
2. Answers will vary. Check for a comma and a complete idea.
3. Answers will vary, such as "If we hurry**, we'll catch the bus.**"
4. Answers will vary. Check for a comma and a complete idea.

C. Join the ideas.

1. I wore a coat **because** it was cold.
2. **When** the lights went out**,** we lit a candle.
3. **If** you finish your homework**,** you can play.

D. Write your own.

Answers will vary. Check for a joining word and a complete main idea.