

Name \_\_\_\_\_

DEVELOP THE CONCEPT

# Clauses and Complex Sentences

A clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb. A **dependent clause** begins with a word such as *because* or *when*. It cannot stand alone as a sentence. An **independent clause** can stand alone.

**Dependent Clause**      when I was eight

**Independent Clause**    My family visited Yosemite.

A sentence made up of a dependent clause and an independent clause is a **complex sentence**.

**Complex Sentences**      When I was eight, my family visited Yosemite.

My family visited Yosemite when I was eight.

Other words that often introduce a dependent clause are *since*, *although*, *if*, *until*, *unless*, *as*, *after*, and *before*. When a dependent clause comes first in a complex sentence, it is followed by a comma.

**Directions** Write *I* if the underlined group of words is an independent clause. Write *D* if it is a dependent clause.

1. People visit Yosemite because it is so beautiful. \_\_\_\_\_
2. When you see El Capitan, you'll be amazed. \_\_\_\_\_
3. If you go there, visit Yosemite Falls. \_\_\_\_\_
4. You will probably see a bear before you leave. \_\_\_\_\_
5. After I returned, I read a book about the park. \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions** Combine each pair of simple sentences. Use the word in ( ). Write the complex sentence.

6. I'll visit all the national parks. I'm grown up. (when)
- \_\_\_\_\_

7. I'm only ten years old. I have to travel with my family. (since)
- \_\_\_\_\_



**Home Activity** Your child learned about clauses and complex sentences. Encourage him or her to show you how words such as *because*, *when*, *although*, and *if* can link simple sentences to form complex sentences.

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# Clauses and Complex Sentences

**Directions** Make complex sentences by choosing clauses from the box to combine with the clauses below. Write your sentences on the lines. Use correct capitalization and punctuation.

Indians were living there  
you will want to return  
it is still mostly wilderness

if you get too close  
because it is so beautiful

1. When explorers reached Yosemite, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Many people visit Yosemite \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Although millions of tourists visit the park, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. A mule deer can be dangerous \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. After you have visited once, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions** Think of a place you would like to visit. Write three complex sentences about the place. Use the words in ( ).

6. (because) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. (if) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. (when) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Home Activity** Your child learned how to use clauses and complex sentences in writing. Ask your child a *why* question. Have him or her write a complex sentence to answer it. Ask your child to explain why the answer is a complex sentence.

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# Clauses and Complex Sentences

**Directions** Mark the letter of the independent clause in each group.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>A</b> when the tourists arrived<br/> <b>B</b> if you are camping<br/> <b>C</b> it is bigger than Rhode Island<br/> <b>D</b> although there are many cars</p> | <p>3. <b>A</b> before we went to sleep<br/> <b>B</b> since we had our backpacks<br/> <b>C</b> after we ate lunch<br/> <b>D</b> we pitched our tent</p>               |
| <p>2. <b>A</b> unless you want an angry bear<br/> <b>B</b> don't tease the animals<br/> <b>C</b> until they can smell you<br/> <b>D</b> as we were driving by</p>     | <p>4. <b>A</b> we went too near the falls<br/> <b>B</b> because we were soaking wet<br/> <b>C</b> when the wind blows hard<br/> <b>D</b> if you want to stay dry</p> |

**Directions** Mark the letter of the word that completes each sentence.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>5. ___ there are bobcats, we didn't see any.<br/> <b>A</b> Although<br/> <b>B</b> And<br/> <b>C</b> Until<br/> <b>D</b> As</p> | <p>8. ___ you go out at night, you might see an owl.<br/> <b>A</b> If<br/> <b>B</b> Until<br/> <b>C</b> But<br/> <b>D</b> Although</p> |
| <p>6. I've been starving ___ we arrived here.<br/> <b>A</b> or<br/> <b>B</b> but<br/> <b>C</b> since<br/> <b>D</b> because</p>    | <p>9. ___ we go to bed, we safely store our food.<br/> <b>A</b> Unless<br/> <b>B</b> Before<br/> <b>C</b> Or<br/> <b>D</b> After</p>   |
| <p>7. We stopped hiking ___ we got too cold.<br/> <b>A</b> or<br/> <b>B</b> unless<br/> <b>C</b> although<br/> <b>D</b> when</p>  | <p>10. ___ I was hiking, I saw a large brown animal.<br/> <b>A</b> And<br/> <b>B</b> As<br/> <b>C</b> Until<br/> <b>D</b> If</p>       |



**Home Activity** Your child prepared for taking tests on clauses and complex sentences. Have your child find complex sentences in a newspaper article. Ask him or her to identify the independent and dependent clauses in each sentence.

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# Clauses and Complex Sentences

**Directions** Write the dependent clause in each sentence.

1. Although they are small, peregrine falcons are very fast.

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2. A jay will steal your food if you don't watch out.

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3. Sheep had almost vanished from the park before they were brought back.

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4. Because bears are so greedy, store food in a metal box.

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5. If you enjoy wildlife, Yosemite is a good place to visit.

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**Directions** Combine each pair of simple sentences. Use the word in ( ). Write the complex sentence.

6. The first tourists traveled by foot. There were no cars. (because)

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7. Most visitors stay in one area. The park is huge. (although)

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8. The rocks seem to change color. The sun shines on them. (when)

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9. You will see a bat. You watch closely. (if)

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10. Don't go near that waterfall. You want to get wet. (unless)

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**Home Activity** Your child reviewed clauses and complex sentences. Ask your child to tell you something about his or her day using complex sentences with the words *when*, *because*, and *if*.