

Name_____ Date_____ Hour_____

Lesson 4: Complex Sentences

Read the passage:

The Great Mouse Plot

My four friends and I had come across a loose floor-board at the back of the classroom, and when we prised it up with the blade of a pocket-knife, we discovered a big hollow space underneath. This, we decided, would be our secret hiding place for sweets and other small treasures such as conkers and monkey-nuts and birds' eggs. Every afternoon, when the last lesson was over, the five of us would wait until the classroom had emptied, then we would lift up the floor-board and examine our secret hoard, perhaps adding to it or taking something away.

1. Write each of the boys' actions in this paragraph as a separate complete sentence, using the subject "we." You may need to add, take away, or rearrange some words. (Example: We "had come across a loose floor-board")

2. Compare the two sides of the chart:

Two actions. Two sentences.	Two actions. One sentence.
1. The boy dropped the dead mouse into the candy jar. 2. The boy walked innocently out of the store.	After he dropped the dead mouse into the candy jar, the boy walked innocently out of the store.

How did the writer change the sentence structure in the two examples?

Dependent markers mark the beginning of a clause that describes an action in relation to another action. One action is dependent on the other action.

Dependent Markers					
once	since	where	as if	however	while
after	until	wherever	even though	because	although
before	as	as though	but	until	when

Circle the dependent markers in each sentence:

3. After he dropped the dead mouse into the candy jar, the boy walked innocently out of the store.
4. The boys always bought Liquorice Bootlaces even though they thought they were made of rat's blood.
5. When he told his friends about his plan for the dead mouse, they congratulated him for a brilliant idea.

PRACTICE | Imagine a story about a girl and a spider. Write two sentences.

Write one sentence to describe something the spider might do.	
Write one sentence to describe something the girl might do.	

Combine these two sentences using a dependent marker. Circle it.
