

Complex Sentence Fix-Up Answer Key

Corrected Sentences

1. I stayed home because I was sick. (*Remove unnecessary comma before "because."*)
2. She was excited, although she was nervous. (*Fix placement of comma; goes before although-clause if it follows main clause.*)
3. Since he practiced every day, he improved his piano skills. (*Fragment fixed by combining clauses.*)
4. The game was canceled because it was raining. (*Add subordinating conjunction to join clauses.*)
5. I'll call you when I arrive. (*Remove "because" — illogical double conjunction.*)
6. The teacher smiled because the students finished their work. (*Replace "since" with "because" for clarity, or leave "since" without comma.*)
7. Because I was late, I missed the bus. (*Remove "and."*)
8. We left early as we had to catch the train. (*Remove unnecessary comma.*)
9. He cannot play video games unless he finishes his chores. (*Fix verb agreement: "finishes."*)
10. The dog barked loudly when the mailman came. (*Remove unnecessary comma before "when."*)

Teacher Guide / Notes

Common student errors with complex sentences include:

- **Comma misuse** (placing commas before subordinating conjunctions incorrectly).
- **Sentence fragments** (writing the subordinate clause as if it were complete).
- **Run-ons** (two clauses joined without proper conjunctions).
- **Double conjunctions** (using more than one at the same time, e.g., "because when").