

Clause Starters Answer Key

Sample Answers (many possible, answers will vary):

1. *Because it was raining, we stayed inside.*
2. *Although she studied hard, she was still nervous for the test.*
3. *Since the power went out, we used candles for light.*
4. *If I forget my homework, my teacher will be upset.*
5. *While the teacher was talking, the students took notes quietly.*
6. *After the movie ended, we went out for ice cream.*
7. *Unless you wear your helmet, you cannot ride your bike.*
8. *Before we leave for school, I need to pack my lunch.*
9. *When the phone rang, I jumped in surprise.*
10. *As the sun was setting, the sky turned bright orange.*

Challenge Extension

- Example student starter: *Although the road was icy,*
→ Completed: *Although the road was icy, we drove carefully.*
- Example student starter: *Since it was her birthday,*
→ Completed: *Since it was her birthday, we baked her a cake.*

Teacher Guide / Notes

- Emphasize that a **dependent clause** is “incomplete” as it leaves the reader waiting for more.
- The **independent clause** finishes the thought, making the sentence complete.
- Encourage students to vary the **placement of clauses**: sometimes the dependent clause can come at the end (*We stayed inside because it was raining*).
- The challenge gives students ownership and creativity, reinforcing their ability to generate complex sentences independently.