

## Clause Cutback Answer Key

### Sample Reductions

1. Because the rain was pouring, we decided to stay home.
2. Although she was tired, she decided to review for her test.
3. Since the teacher explained the directions clearly, the students completed the assignment.

### Challenge Sentences

4. Even though I wanted to buy the new shoes, I decided not to.
5. If you practice the piano every day, you will get better quickly.
6. Since the electricity went out, we lit candles in the living room.

### Teacher Notes / Guide

- This exercise teaches students **how to focus on the essential idea** in complex sentences.
- Remind them that:
  - **Independent clause = complete thought.**
  - **Dependent clause = relies on the independent clause for meaning.**
- Encourage students to drop **extra modifiers or added clauses** while keeping **one of each type** intact.
- Extension: After reducing, have students **rebuild** the sentence by adding back extra descriptive details, practicing both **expansion and reduction**.