Name _____ Date _____

Subordinating Conjunctions: Because, When or If?

Directions: The words because, when and if are subordinating conjunctions. Each one joins two ideas. Ask yourself what the joining word tells you.

1. Which word joins the two ideas in this sentence?

"Nia smiled because her tooth came out."

A. smiled B. tooth C. out D. because

2. Here is a sentence about Dad.

"Dad sings when he washes the dishes."

What does the part that starts with *when* tell you?

A. the time Dad sings B. the song Dad sings C. the reason Dad sings

3. What does the word *because* tell you in this sentence?

"Omar wore boots because the path was muddy."

A. why Omar wore boots B. the time Omar wore boots
C. where Omar walked

4. Think about the word *If* in this sentence.

"If the wind blows, we will fly the kite."

What does *If* tell you?

A. The kite is too heavy to fly. B. The wind is blowing now.
C. The wind may or may not blow. D. The wind blew the kite away.

5. Pick the word that gives a reason.

Word bank
because • when • if

Rosa picked the red bike _____ red is her favorite color.

6. Pick the word that tells the time.

Word bank
because • when • if

Mia was asleep _____ the snow started.

7. Lena is not sure the store has plums today. Which word fits?

Word bank
if • because • when

Lena will buy plums today _____ the store has them.

8. Which word tells why Leo walks to school?

Word bank
because • if • when

Leo walks to school _____ he lives close by.

9. Mom may say yes, or she may say no. Which word fits?

Word bank
if • when • because

We will get a puppy _____ Mom says yes.

10. This longer sentence should tell why Mateo chose the top bunk. Its joining word is wrong.

"At camp, Mateo chose the top bunk if he likes high places."

Which change makes the sentence give a reason?

A. Change *chose* to *choose*.
B. Change *likes* to *liked*.
C. Change *if* to *when*.
D. Change *if* to *because*.