

Complex Sentences #1

Name: _____

You've already learned that a clause has a subject and a verb. There are two kinds of clauses:

1. An independent clause
2. A dependent clause

Dependent Clause: A dependent clause has a subject and a verb. However, it has NO complete thought. It needs an independent clause. Therefore, it is dependent on the independent clause.

Example: After Tyler called his friend. . . Subject = Tyler Verb = Called

Independent Clause: An independent clause has a subject, verb, and a complete thought. It is a sentence.

Example: He met him at the park.

Simple Sentence: A simple sentence only has a subject and a complete predicate.

Examples: *The dog barked.* / *The big, hairy dog with sharp teeth barked at the mailman.*

Complex Sentence: A dependent clause needs an independent clause. When you put the two together, you have a complex sentence.

Examples: When the mailman arrived, the dog barked.

Dependent clause Independent Clause

Subordinate Conjunctions: Subordinate conjunctions connect a dependent clause with an independent clause. Here are some examples:

after although because before if once unless until whenever while

Directions: Write "Dependent Clause" under the dependent clause and "Independent Clause" under the independent clause. Circle the subordinate conjunction.

1. The mailman wouldn't deliver our mail after my dog bit him in the leg.
Independent Clause **Dependent Clause**
2. Sarah could have done better on the assignment, although she did receive an A.
3. Because she didn't say, "Mother may I?" she had to start over.
4. Before my mom would let me spend the night, she had to talk to Jamie's mom.
5. If you study for the test, you will do much better.
6. Once the play started, we were not allowed to talk.
7. We won't be able to play unless the rain stops by noon.
8. Rex practiced his guitar until he could play the song perfectly.
9. Whenever I think about my third grade teacher, I have a warm feeling inside.
10. We played games while the adults sat and talked.

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Complex Sentences #3

Directions: Write a dependent clause that turns the simple sentence into a complex sentence. Use the subordinate conjunctions in the extension below for ideas.

1. While we sang at the concert , parents recorded the show with their video cameras.
2. _____ , we will be going to camp.
3. _____ , Dad changed the flat tire.
4. The police searched every house _____ .
5. I like to eat cotton candy _____ .
6. _____ , you can go to the movies on Saturday.
7. _____ , everyone stopped what they were doing.
8. We talked on the phone for hours _____ .
9. We had a hard time finding our way home _____ .
10. _____ , the girls did each others' hair.
11. _____ , we'll have to take two cars.
12. _____ , we sang camp songs for hours.
13. Dawn and I couldn't stop giggling _____ .
14. We stared into space with our mouths wide open _____ .
15. Timmy hopped from one foot to the other _____ .

Extension: Your dog has escaped and wants to play hide and seek. It's your job to track him down. Write a one paragraph story about your attempts to catch him. Use at least three (3) complex sentences. Use the subordinate conjunctions below for ideas.

after as because before if once since so unless
when whenever wherever whether while

Complex Sentences #4

Directions: Write a dependent clause that turns the simple sentence into a complex sentence.

1. While we sang at the concert , parents recorded the show with their video cameras.
2. _____ , I froze like a statue.
3. _____ , the officer walked into the room and asked, "Who's in charge here?"
4. Patsy put her face in her hands and started crying _____ .
5. We bought a huge tub of popcorn _____ .
6. _____ , the boys began chucking snowballs everywhere.
7. _____ , the captain had to wash the deck of the boat.
8. The kids jumped in the air and screamed _____ .
9. Rover did all kinds of tricks _____ .
10. _____ , Frank wondered why no one was here.
11. _____ , the teacher wrote their homework on the board.
12. _____ , a bear broke into our tent and ate our food.
13. We waited in line for tickets _____ .
14. Julian stuffed a dozen marshmallows into his mouth _____ .
15. Everyone stampeded out of the room _____ .

Extension: Think of a task that can be explained easily. For example, you can explain how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Write a one paragraph explanation of how to do that task. Use at least three (3) complex sentences. Use the subordinate conjunctions below for ideas.

after as because before if once since so unless
when whenever wherever whether while

Sentence Combining #2

Sentence Combining Tricks

1. Sharing Important Words 2. Making Phrases 3. Join Sentences

Appositives: Sometimes we use an entire sentence describing something, when we could have just used a phrase in another sentence. Example:

Two Sentences: *Mr. Jones is my coach. He taught me how to bunt a baseball.*

Combined Sentence with Appositive: *Mr. Jones, my coach, taught me how to bunt a baseball.*

Phrases: Sometimes we can take a phrase from another sentence and use it to combine two sentences.

Several Sentences: *Henry went to get some paper. He went down the hall.*

Combined Sentence: *Henry went down the hall to get some paper.*

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite the following sentences into one smooth sentence. You will need to take phrases from one sentence and add them to the other sentence. Remember, there may be many ways to combine each of these sentences.

1. Francisco is my neighbor. We walk to school together every day.
2. Kyle threw the ball. It went into the bushes.
3. Tim scored twenty points in our game last week. Tim is our captain.
4. The students enjoyed signing each others' yearbooks. They signed them under the tree.
5. The Battling Butterflies won the championship. They are my sister's softball team.
6. We drove all the way to Flagstaff. We rode in our Chevy Venture.
7. Chuck carried the box to the class. It was filled with reading books.
8. Our choir sang "Friends Forever" at graduation. "Friends Forever" was selected by student council.
9. All the girls in the class gave Antonio a valentine last February. He's the nicest boy in the class.
10. Mom went to talk to our neighbor. She lives across the street.
11. Mr. Derker is my piano teacher. He has been teaching me for three years.
12. Monique wrote a poem. It was about pandas.

Sentence Combining #3

Sentence Combining Tricks

1. Sharing Important Words 2. Making Phrases 3. Join Sentences

Compound Sentences:

When there are two sentences that share a similar thought, you can combine them into a compound sentence. A comma is placed at the end of the first sentence and a coordinate conjunction is used to connect the two sentences.

Two Sentences: *We are having a party. All of my friends are invited.*

Compound Sentence: *We are having a party, and all of my friends are invited.*

Complex Sentence:

Sometimes two sentences can share a complete thought. You have already learned that complex sentences have a dependent clause and an independent clause. In some cases, you can take a clause from one sentence and make it the dependent clause in another sentence.

Two Sentences: *Dad is going to take us to get pizza. We're going after he drives Mom to the airport.*

Complex Sentence: *After Dad drives Mom to the airport, he's going to take us to get pizza.*

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite the following sentences into one smooth sentence. You will need to make compound or complex sentences. Remember, there may be many ways to combine each of these sentences.

1. We wanted to see the movie. It was sold out.
2. Tony won an award. He was the fastest runner in the school.
3. Ashley won an award. She received it last Wednesday.
4. The choir practiced for a half an hour. They practiced before going on stage.
5. Mom did her grocery shopping. At the same time, we played video games.
6. Tomorrow we might go to the beach. We might also go to the park.
7. Our football captain rings the victory bell. He rings it whenever we win a game.
8. The bell rang. Everyone raced out of the classrooms.
9. We moved to the front row. We had to move so we could see better.
10. I had a hamburger for dinner. I had ice-cream for dessert.
11. I got a radio for my birthday. I wanted a bike.
12. I had to go back to my house. I forgot my lunch.