

Sentence Structure

Simple Sentences

FOCUS

A simple sentence has one independent clause and no dependent clause. An independent clause has a noun and a verb that tells a complete thought. A dependent clause has a noun and a verb that does not tell a complete thought.

Example: Janie and George left their homework at home.

CONNECT TO WRITING

Complete sentences have four different purposes.

A **declarative** sentence makes a statement and has a period as ending punctuation.

Example: Joanna went shopping at the mall.

An **interrogative** sentence asks a question and has a question mark as ending punctuation.

Example: Would you mind cooking your own dinner tonight?

An **imperative** sentence gives a command or makes a request and has a period as ending punctuation.

Examples: Don't tell me what to do. (Command); Mom, sing a song for us. (Request)

An **exclamatory** sentence shows surprise or strong emotions and has an exclamation point as ending punctuation.

Example: I can't believe you said that!

PRACTICE

Identify the following simple sentences as declarative, interrogative, imperative, or exclamatory in the space provided. Add the ending punctuation.

Look at me when I talk to you

That answer really shocked me

Why should I have to wait

Tom asked me a question

WRITE

Write your own simple sentence.

Sentence Structure

Compound Sentences

FOCUS

A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses but no dependent clauses. An independent clause has a noun and a verb that tells a complete thought. A compound sentence joins independent clauses with either a semicolon or a comma, followed by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*) if one or more of the independent clauses is long or the independent clauses stand in contrast to each other.

Examples: She likes me, and she will do her best to support me in whatever I do.
 Tom has many skills, but he does not always apply them.

CONNECT TO WRITING

Having a variety of sentence lengths within a paragraph makes writing more readable.

PRACTICE

Use the coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS) to join these independent clauses.

I enjoy watching old television shows the new ones are better

Do you want vanilla do you want strawberry

Use a semicolon to join these independent clauses.

No one really wants to go they just feel like they must attend

This route takes too long there must be another way

WRITE

Write your own compound sentence.

Sentence Structure

Complex Sentences

FOCUS

A complex sentence has an independent clause and at least one dependent clause. An independent clause has a noun and a verb that tells a complete thought. A dependent clause has a noun and a verb that does not tell a complete thought. A dependent clause is also called a *subordinate clause* and always begins with a subordinating conjunction such as *before*.

Example: Ty completed all his chores (independent clause) + before he ate his lunch (dependent clause) = Ty completed all his chores before he ate his lunch.

CONNECT TO WRITING

Using different sentence structures makes your writing more interesting to read. Complex sentences can help define or explain the relationship between complicated ideas. If starting a sentence with a dependent clause, follow the clause with a comma. Use this memory trick to remember the subordinating conjunctions:

Bud is wise, but hot! AAA WWW

before, unless, despite (in spite of), in order that, so, while, if, since, even though (if), because, until, that, how, once, than, after, although (though), as (as if, as long as, as though), whether, when (whenever), where (wherever)

PRACTICE

Re-write the following simple sentences into complex sentences in the spaces below. Choose a subordinating conjunction from the list above to begin a dependent clause in each sentence.

Kenny will be able to go outside to play he practices his trombone

the Kings won the first round of the play-offs the team advances to the second round

WRITE

Write your own complex sentence.

Sentence Structure Compound-Complex Sentences

FOCUS

A compound-complex sentence has two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent (subordinate) clause. An independent clause has a noun and a verb that tells a complete thought. A dependent clause has a noun and a verb that does not tell a complete thought.

CONNECT TO WRITING

Dependent clauses can be placed at the start, in the middle, or at the end of sentences.

PRACTICE

Re-write the following clauses into compound-complex sentences in the spaces below. You may need to switch around the order of the clauses and add in coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*).

John told a campfire story the campers roasted marshmallows after the sun set

the captain knew the sailor the sailor did not recognize him since the captain had a beard

although Tom knew better because Sue would not listen he could not teach her

WRITE

Write your own compound-complex sentence.

Language Worksheet Answers

Simple Subject

traveler, Tasco, cathedral, Guadalajara, city, people, Mexico City, trip
an experienced traveler

Compound Subject

marathon+race, fans+spectators, Basketball+gymnastics+ice-hockey, cost+effort,
Athletes+spectators

Simple Predicate

Ice cream+[has pleased], ice cream+[is], treat+[has], Rocky Road+[delights],
nuts+marshmallows+[may cause], double-scoop+[tastes], Eating +[can be]

Compound Predicate

works+[stand]+[are remembered], description+[entertains]+[informs], one+[will learn]+
[understand], novel+[teaches]+[preaches], hero+[wrestles]+[triumphs], Debbie walked into the
room, sat down in the chair, and heaved a sigh of relief.

Simple Sentence

Look at me when I talk to you.	imperative
That answer really shocked me.	exclamatory
Why should I have to wait?	interrogative
Tom asked me a question.	declarative

Compound Sentence

I enjoy watching old television shows, but (yet) the new ones are better.
Do you want vanilla, or (and) do you want strawberry?
No one really wants to go; they just feel like they must attend.
This route takes too long; there must be another way.

Complex Sentence

Kenny will be able to go outside to play *after*, *as long as*, *because*, *if*, *once*, or *when* he practices
his trombone.
Because, *Since* the Kings won the first round of the play-offs, the team advances to the second
round.

Language Worksheet Answers (continued)

Compound-Complex Sentence

Options:

After the sun set, John told a campfire story, and the campers roasted marshmallows.
John told a campfire story, and the campers roasted marshmallows after the sun set.
The campers roasted marshmallows, and John told a campfire story after the sun set.

The captain knew the sailor, but the sailor did not recognize him since the captain had a beard.
The sailor did not recognize him, since the captain had a beard, but the captain knew the sailor.

Although Tom knew better, he could not teach her, because Sue would not listen.

Sentence Fragments

#1 1. F 2. CS 3. F 4. F 5. F 6. CS 7. F

#2 Options:

Running down the hill to my friend, she fell down and sprained her ankle.
She fell down and sprained her ankle running down the hill to my friend.

Any independent clause+“When the class goes to lunch after the bell.”
The playground seems wet with ice.

Run-On Sentences

#1 Mohandas K. Gandhi has been called the most important Indian leader of this century, his ideas about non-violent protesting helped unite the entire nation of India against the British Empire.
Gandhi’s ideas also influenced the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in the United States both men were murdered because of their views.
King learned much from Mohandas K. Gandhi so did many Americans.

#2 Ms. Clements always prepared well for her lesson plans, and (so) the results paid off.
Options:

Jonathan seemed very selfish; he never shared with the other children.
Jonathan seemed very selfish, never sharing with the other children.

Parallelism

a new nation	that nation, any nation, this nation
we cannot dedicate	we cannot consecrate, we cannot hollow
who struggled here	what we say here, what they did here, to be dedicated here, they who fought here
shall not have died in vain	shall have a new birth of freedom, shall not perish from the earth
of the people	by the people, for the people