

Unit 2

Complex Sentences

Sentence Combining

Three Types of Sentences

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.

Complex Sentences #2

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. Because we were all so tired, we decided to go home early.
3. Unless we do all of our homework, we won't be able to play.
4. My dog waited at the door for us until we got home.
5. Although none of us wanted to leave, we had to be home before midnight.
6. If Charlie doesn't stop teasing that dog, the dog is going to bite him.
7. We took pictures while the monkeys swung from the trees.
8. Whenever my sister gets in trouble, my dad makes her weed the garden.
9. Once school starts, you need a pass to get into your class.
10. Before you accuse someone of stealing your pencil, make sure it isn't just lost.
11. I had to go to the dentist because my back tooth started to hurt.
12. After I finished my project, I asked my dad to check it for mistakes.
13. If I had hit the ball five more feet, it would have been a homerun.
14. We could not go to the movies until my baby sister woke up from her nap.
15. Alice played the piano while Mary played her flute.

Extension: Use each subordinate conjunction below in a complex sentence. Skip lines. When finished, write “Independent Clause” under the independent clauses and “Dependent Clause” below the dependent clauses.

after because before if once unless
 when wherever whether while

Complex Sentences #3

Name: _____

Directions: Use the dependent clause in parentheses to turn the simple sentences below into complex sentences.

1. Dependent Clause: (as the students entered the room)

The teacher passed out their homework.

2. Dependent Clauses: (while Jennifer painted a picture)

Amy cut out stars

3. Dependent Clause: (whenever I get in trouble)

I have to sit in time-out.

4. Dependent Clauses: (if we all work together)

We can finish in an hour.

5. Dependent Clauses: (so he won't get sick)

He takes his vitamins every day.

Extension: Write three (3) simple sentences. Next, turn them into complex sentences by adding dependent clauses. 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. 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 #5

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 #1

Being able to combine sentences can help you write more smoothly. Many times you can say things in one sentence better than you can say them in two. These worksheets will help you practice sentence combining. Pay close attention to the new sentences created so you can start making longer, smoother sentences.

Sentence Combining Tricks

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

Sometimes you can eliminate needless sentences by taking key words from other sentences and putting them into one sentence. Look at the samples below:

Two Sentences: *The milk spoiled. It was two weeks old.*

Combined Sentence: *The two week old milk spoiled.*

Several Sentences: *The water was cold. The water was dirty. The water was polluted.*

Combined Sentence: *The water was cold, dirty, and polluted.*

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

1. The high school band gave a concert. It lasted for an hour.
2. Mom bought me a shirt. Next, she bought me some shoes. Then she bought me pants.
3. I received a letter from my friend Ashley. It was three pages long.
4. We waited for Paul. We waited for Peter. We waited for Mary.
5. Gina made a cake for her dad's birthday. The cake was chocolate with sprinkles.
6. We found a puppy wandering the streets. It was small with black spots.
7. This week in class I wrote a poem. Also, I wrote a song. Then, I wrote a story.
8. My cat can climb a tree. She can also climb a fence. She can climb anything else she wants.
9. He was upset about his toy. It was broken.
10. When you draw a clown, be sure to give it a funny nose. Also, give it a big mouth. Then give it wide eyes.

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.

**Sentence Combining
#4****Sentence Combining Tricks**

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

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite the following sentences into one smooth sentence. There may be many ways to combine each of these sentences.

1. The baby learned how to crawl. She was five months old.
2. I help Mrs. Snodgrass after school. She was my fourth grade teacher.
3. My dad went on a business trip. He went across the country.
4. I bought a hotdog. I ate it under a tree.
5. We had to take a shower. Then we could go in the pool.
6. We went into the park. We went across the field. We went onto the swings.
7. The United States has people from almost every country. It's the best country in the world.
8. Mr. Simon corrected our papers. At the same time we drew our illustrations.
9. Amy won the lottery. It was worth a million dollars.
10. Michael collected fifty worms for our fishing trip. He got them from our back yard.
11. I scored twenty points yesterday. We lost anyway.
12. Rex barked at the mailman. Next, he barked at our neighbor. Finally, he barked at me.
13. Our coach is taking us to the batting cages. His name is Mr. Henderson.
14. We cut down our tree. Now there is more room to play.
15. The police officer gave a ticket to the driver. The ticket was for speeding.
16. Our class sang a song at the assembly. It was about America.
17. We can save twenty dollars. We have to sign up for ballet lessons today.
18. Before I could eat I had to wash my hands. Then I had to set the table. Finally, I had to make the lemonade.
19. Number Blaster will help me with my math. It is a new computer program.
20. We can go on the Ferris wheel. We can go on the Merry-go-round.

**Sentence Combining
#5****Sentence Combining Tricks**

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

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite the following sentences into one smooth sentence. There may be many ways to combine each of these sentences.

1. We had pizza for dinner. It was pepperoni.
2. Shirley is the captain of our cheer team. She created several new cheers for us.
3. We had to search for our lost ball. It rolled into the bushes.
4. We made chocolate cake for the class. It melted in the car.
5. Mikea won a new bicycle. She sold more cookies than anyone.
6. The barber washed my hair. Then he cut it. Finally, he styled it.
7. Peanut was eaten by Slim. Peanut was my mouse and Slim is my snake.
8. My baby sister cries. She does that whenever my mom leaves the house.
9. The boy rode his bike without his training wheels. He was five years old.
10. I went swimming at the beach. I stayed in the water for an hour.
11. I had to hide my new game from my brother. It had to be in a very safe place.
12. The fireman connected the hose. Next, he dragged it to the house. Then, he turned on the water.
13. We're going to the movies. We'll go after I mow the lawn.
14. You can play on the swings. You can skate around the park.
15. We jumped into the water and jumped right back out. The water was cold.
16. Mrs. Trigs is my math teacher. She explains fractions very well.
17. We had to go to another store to find the video. The store was all the way across town.
18. The doctor took my temperature. He checked my throat. He gave me some medicine.
19. Our class will have a pizza party. We all need to do our homework for a month.
20. The first forty people to show up received free posters. The people had to be wearing red.

Three Types of Sentences #1

Name: _____

Let's review three types of sentences:

1. **Simple Sentence:** A sentence with only a subject and a predicate.

Examples: *The dog barked.* OR

The big, mean dog barked ferociously at the cat in the tree.

2. **Compound Sentence:** A sentence with two independent clauses joined by a comma and coordinate conjunction.

Example: *The dog barked, and the cat ran away.*

3. **Complex Sentence:** A sentence with an independent clause and a dependent clause.

Example: *When the dog barked, the cat ran away.*

Directions: The sentences below are simple, complex, or compound sentences. Read the sentence then circle the letter below that describes the sentence.

Example: *Whenever I'm sick, my mom makes chicken soup.*

A. simple sentence B. compound sentence C. complex sentence

1. Everyone enjoyed listening to the band at the concert.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
2. We arrived at the game, and the usher showed us to our seats.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
3. Unless we raise more money, we can't go on the field trip.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
4. The bell rang, and the boxers came out fighting.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
5. When the singer walked into the room, the girls went crazy.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
6. On Sunday Dad mowed the tall green grass in the front yard.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence

Three Types of Sentences #2

Name: _____

I. Directions: The sentences below are simple, complex, or compound sentences. Read the sentence then circle the letter below that describes the sentence.

1. When a colonial man greeted a lady, he would bow and tip his hat.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
2. The colonists formed a militia to protect their homes from attack.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
3. An apprentice learned a trade from a skilled worker while helping assist at his shop.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
4. Young children played, but they were put to work at an early age.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
5. Many colonial shops ordered goods from England so the colonist could enjoy fancy items.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
6. Colonists enjoyed dancing with each other late into the night.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence

II. Directions: For each topic below, write a simple sentence. Next, use the same sentence to write a complex sentence by adding a dependent clause. Finally, use the same sentence to write a compound sentence by adding a comma, a coordinate conjunction, and another sentence.

Example: School

Simple Sentence: Mr. Sabel is a funny teacher.

Complex Sentence: Whenever he teaches science, Mr. Sabel is a funny teacher.

Compound Sentence: Mr. Sabel is a funny teacher, and I wish he could be my teacher next year too.

1. School

Simple Sentence: _____

Complex Sentence: _____

Compound Sentence: _____

2. Friends

Simple Sentence: _____

Complex Sentence: _____

Compound Sentence: _____

3. Music

Simple Sentence: _____

Complex Sentence: _____

Compound Sentence: _____

4. Sports

Simple Sentence: _____

Complex Sentence: _____

Compound Sentence: _____

5. A Party

Simple Sentence: _____

Complex Sentence: _____

Compound Sentence: _____

Three Types of Sentences #3

I. Directions: The sentences below are simple, complex, or compound sentences. Read the sentence then circle the letter below that describes the sentence.

1. The children went trick-or-treating, and the grandparents passed out candy.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
2. As the movie started, everyone got comfortable in their seats.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
3. A small white poodle did a bunch of tricks in front of our house.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
4. We couldn't play outside until we cleaned our rooms.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
5. The lady walked into the room, handed the man a note, and left quietly.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence
6. The movie started, but it was so soft that we couldn't hear it.
A. Simple Sentence B. Complex Sentence C. Compound Sentence

II. Directions: For each topic below, write a simple sentence. Next, use the same sentence to write a complex sentence by adding a dependent clause. Finally, use the same sentence to write a complex sentence by adding a coordinate conjunction and another sentence.

1. Summer Vacation

Simple Sentence: _____

Complex Sentence: _____

Compound Sentence: _____

2. Holidays

Simple Sentence: _____

Complex Sentence: _____

Compound Sentence: _____

3. Exercise

Simple Sentence: _____

Complex Sentence: _____

Compound Sentence: _____

4. The Beach

Simple Sentence: _____

Complex Sentence: _____

Compound Sentence: _____

5. Favorite Book

Simple Sentence: _____

Complex Sentence: _____

Compound Sentence: _____

Extension: Write two (2) simple sentences, two (2) complex sentences, two (2) compound sentences about things that happen during the holidays. Below are some subordinate conjunctions to help.

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