

# Compound and Complex Sentences

Questions/main idea

Notes

What is a compound sentence?

2 sentences joined together with a comma AND a conjunction. The most popular conjunctions you'll use are the words and, but, or, and so.

What is an example of a compound sentence?

She gave the students notes, and the students copied them.

What is the "formula"?

Whole sentence + comma + and/but/or/so + whole sentence.

Are there any other ways to write a compound sentence?

Instead of using a comma AND conjunction, you may use a semicolon, which looks like ;.

What are three common issues with compound sentences?

1. Putting more than two sentences together
2. Putting two sentences together with a comma but not a conjunction
3. Putting two sentences together with a conjunction but not a comma.

What is a complex sentence?

A complex sentence is made up of an independent clause and a subordinate clause.

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What is an independent clause?

An independent clause is a sentence all by itself.

EX: The little dog barked.

What is a subordinate clause?

A subordinate clause is a group of words that would be a sentence by itself IF you took away the first word of the clause.

EX: When the girl screamed

What are key words that begin a subordinate clause?

These are called subordinate conjunctions. Look for the following words to see if the words that follow make up a subordinate clause:

Since, because, although, as, with, while, until, after, before, during, if, unless, when.

subordinate clause + COMMA+ independent clause.

EX: When the girl screamed, the little dog barked.

What are the 2 ways to write a complex sentence?

independent clause + subordinate clause. This way has no comma. You would not pause when speaking.

EX: The little dog barked when the girl screamed.

What are some tips/suggestions for finding complex sentences?

1. Look in the middle for a comma. If there IS a comma, look at the beginning for one of those words to cover up. If you can cover the first word up and have a sentence up to the comma, it's complex.
2. If there's no comma in the middle, look in the middle of the sentence for the word to cover up (the subordinate conjunction). If you find one, and the second half of the sentence is a whole sentence by itself, it's complex.