

Compound-Complex Sentences

Four Types of Sentences

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Before you learn the fourth type of sentence, the compound-complex sentence, let's review the three other 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 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.*

Compound-Complex Sentences

A compound-complex sentence is exactly what its name states. It is a compound sentence. One or both of the independent clauses will have a dependent clause. This makes the sentence complex as well.

Example:

Compound Sentence: The dog barked, and the cat ran away.

Add the dependent clause: "When he saw the cat "

The dog barked when he saw the cat, and the cat ran away.

Add the dependent clause: "until she was safe. "

The dog barked when he saw the cat, and the cat ran away until she was safe.

Directions: Turn the compound sentences below into compound-complex sentences by adding the dependent clauses in parentheses.

Example: Dependent Clauses: (Until I feel better) (Whenever I'm sick)

My mom makes chicken soup, and my dad reads to me.

Whenever I'm sick my mom makes chicken soup, and my dad reads to me until I feel better.

1. Dependent Clause: (as soon as we arrived)

We went to the game, but it started to rain.

2. Dependent Clauses: (while the parents made punch) (once the party started)

The music was loud, and everyone danced.

3. Dependent Clauses: (when the students took their seats) (which was in room 304)

The class started, and the teacher began to teach.

4. Dependent Clause: (if the weather is bad)

We'll go camping, or we might stay in a hotel.

5. Dependent Clauses: (because he had to go to a meeting) (when class started)

The students were ready, but the teacher was late.

6. Dependent Clauses: (when his parents came home) (so we could have more fun)

The party ended, and we went to Tom's house.

7. Dependent Clause: (until the people left the theater)

We bought our tickets, but we couldn't go in.

8. Dependent Clause: (that went over the center field fence)

He hit a homerun, and the Dodgers won the game.

9. Dependent Clauses: (while I do my work) (when I get home)

You can play in the park, or you can go swimming.

10. Dependent Clauses: (so she'd be ready to win) (when she arrived at the field)

The girl put on her cleats, and she warmed up for twenty minutes.
