

Sentence Structure Tasks

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ANSWER KEYS

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

student reference page

KEY TERMS

- ❑ **Subject** – the topic of a sentence
- ❑ **Predicate** – the action word in the sentence
- ❑ **Independent clause** – a group of words with one subject and one verb that form a complete thought (this is a complete sentence)
- ❑ **Dependent clause** – a groups of words with a subject and verb that do not form a complete thought (this is not a sentence)
- ❑ **Conjunction** – a part of speech that links together words and phrases

EXAMPLE

Since she forgot it at home, Jane asked her mom to bring her homework to school, but her mom was at work.

Subject: Jane, mom

Predicate: asked her mom to bring her homework to school, was at work

Independent clause: Jane asked her mom to bring her homework to school, her mom was at work

Dependent clause: Since she forgot it at home

Conjunction: but

TYPES OF SENTENCE STRUCTURES

A **simple sentence** is a single independent clause without any dependent clauses.

EXAMPLE: They watched a movie.

Subject: They

Predicate: watched a movie

A **compound sentence** has multiple independent clauses (IC) and no dependent clauses. Compound sentences are held together by a conjunction.

EXAMPLE: They watched a movie, and she read a book.

IC: They watched a movie, she read a book

Conjunction: and

A **complex sentence** has one independent clause (IC) and at least one dependent clause (DC).

EXAMPLE: Before she watched the movie in the theater, she read the book.

IC: she read the book

DC: Before she watched the movie in the theater

A **compound-complex sentence** has two or more independent clauses (IC) joined with a conjunction & at least one dependent clause (DC).

EXAMPLE: Even though I love books, I didn't like that one, but I still read the entire thing.

IC: I didn't like that one, I still read the entire thing

DC: Even though I love books

Conjunction: but

SENTENCE structure

UNDERSTANDING SIMPLE SENTENCES

Subject – the topic of a sentence

Predicate – the action word in the sentence

Independent clause – a group of words with one subject and one verb that form a complete thought (this is a complete sentence).

EXAMPLE

My mother made a grocery list.

subject predicate

Directions: In order to be a simple sentence, the sentence must have one subject and one predicate. For each sentence, underline the subject and highlight the predicate.

1. Stella had a lot of fun on the slide.
2. My sister loves going to the park.
3. I cooked lasagna for dinner.
4. She waited in line.
5. The yellow ball bounces really high.
6. The neighbor's cat loves to sit in the window.
7. The young boy watched a movie.
8. Five small puppies play in the yard.
9. I went for a walk.
10. She slept on the couch.
11. The monkey ate a banana.
12. The computer broke last night.
13. Michael bought a deck of playing cards.
14. The light burnt out.
15. An earthquake rattled the city.

SENTENCE *structure*

SENTENCE OR FRAGMENT

Subject – the topic of a sentence

Predicate – the action word in the sentence

Independent clause – a group of words with one subject and one verb that form a complete thought (this is a complete sentence).

Simple Sentence (Independent Clause) Fragment

My mother likes to read books in the afternoon. When my mother reads books.

subject

predicate

(incomplete thought)

Directions: Determine if the statement is a simple sentence or a dependent clause (an incomplete sentence). In the space provided, write "S" for sentence if it is a sentence, and write "I" for incomplete if the sentence is incomplete.

1.	S	The line at the grocery store was very long.
2.	S	She likes pizza.
3.	I	After waiting in line for three hours to ride the roller coaster.
4.	S	The birthday party will be a lot of fun.
5.	I	When I graduate from high school.
6.	I	Once the children are done playing.
7.	S	The baseball player threw the ball.
8.	S	The clouds in the sky look rather ominous.
9.	I	Before the football teams practice each day after school.
10.	I	Once upon a time in a land far, far away.
11.	S	He fell off his bike.
12.	S	The kids baked a cake for their friends.
13.	I	After reading the entire book.
14.	I	Whenever we go to the amusement park with our best friends.
15.	S	He fell.

SENTENCE structure

UNDERSTANDING COMPOUND SENTENCES

Subject – the topic of a sentence

Predicate – the action word in the sentence

Independent clause – a group of words with one subject and one verb that form a complete thought (this is a complete sentence)

Conjunction - a word that links together words, phrases, or ideas.

Compound sentence – a sentence with 2 independent clauses joined together by a conjunction

EXAMPLE

Clark washed the laundry, and Emily folded it.

S predicate S predicate

Dogs make great pets; they are loyal and loving.

S predicate S predicate

Directions: For each compound sentence, highlight the **subject in yellow** and highlight the **predicate in green**.

- I like chocolate ice cream, but my best friend prefers vanilla.
- I forgot to put on sunscreen, and I got a terrible sunburn.
- Claudia auditioned for the band, and Gregory auditioned for the choir.
- Sugar cookies are my favorite; my sister likes chocolate chip cookies.
- She did not cheat on the test, for it was the moral thing to do.
- I think I want a red car, but I also like the blue one.
- Jake made sugar cookies; Aubrey decorated them.
- They got there early, and they got really good seats.
- It is starting to get dark, and we are not even there yet.
- I have never been to Europe, nor have I been to Asia.
- He didn't want to go to the dentist, but he went anyway.

12. She only paints with pastel colors; she does not like bold colors.

13. The sky is clear; the moon is shining brightly.

14. We are going on vacation, but we can only stay for three days.

SENTENCE structure

COMBINING SIMPLE SENTENCES INTO COMPOUND SENTENCES

A **simple sentence** is a single independent clause without any dependent clauses.

EXAMPLE: **They** watched a movie. **She** read a book.

Subject: They **Subject:** She

Predicate: watched a movie **Predicate:** read a book

A **compound sentence** has multiple independent clauses (IC) and no dependent clauses. Compound sentences are held together by a conjunction or semicolon.

EXAMPLE: They watched a movie, *and* she read a book.

IC: They watched a movie, she read a book

Conjunction: and

Directions: Combine the two simple sentences to form a compound sentence.

1. The two young children were at the beach.
They found seashells and sand dollars in the sand.

The two young children were at the beach, and they found seashells and sand dollars in the sand.

2. My favorite season is Spring.
I also like Summer.

My favorite season is spring, but I also like summer

3. We can go to the movie theater.
We can go to the beach.

We can go to the movie theater, or we can go to the beach.

4. Suzy wants to wear her new red shirt.
She cannot find her shirt anywhere.

Suzy wants to wear her new red shirt, but she cannot find her shirt anywhere.

5. My favorite food is spaghetti.
I do not like parmesan cheese on my spaghetti.

My favorite food is spaghetti, but I do not like parmesan cheese on my spaghetti.

6. The sixth graders are going to Florida this year.
Last year the class went to Wyoming.

The sixth graders are going to Florida this year, but last year the class went to Wyoming.

7. Carolyn is reading a book.
Carlos is writing a book.

Carolyn is reading a book, and Carlos is writing a book.

8. The tree swayed in the wind.
It looked like it was dancing.

The tree swayed in the wind, and it looked like it was dancing.

9. I love chewing gum.
I do not like cinnamon-flavored gum.

I love chewing gum, but I do not like cinnamon-flavored gum.

10. The batter missed the ball twice.
She hit a homerun on the third pitch.

The batter missed the ball twice, but she hit a homerun on the third pitch.

WRITE YOUR OWN: Write your own compound sentences. Be sure to highlight each subject in yellow and each predicate in green.

1. The Pink Panther went to the shop, and he bought food
2. She was hungry, so she made food for herself.
3. I like walking, but I don't like running.
4. I love ice cream, but I don't like mint flavored.
5. I have friends, and they are wonderful.

SENTENCE *structure*

UNDERSTANDING COMPLEX SENTENCES

Subject – the topic of a sentence

Predicate – the action word in the sentence

Independent clause – a group of words with one subject and one verb that form a complete thought (this is a complete sentence)

Dependent clause – a groups of words with a subject and verb that do not form a complete thought (this is not a sentence)

Complex sentence – a sentence with a dependent clause and an independent clause.

EXAMPLES

Before going to the store, my mother always makes a grocery list.
dependent clause independent clause

She believed in fairy tales when she was a young girl.
Independent clause dependent clause

Directions: Read each complex sentence. Highlight the dependent clause in aqua and highlight the independent clause in yellow.

1. Because my cocoa was too cold, I microwaved it for 30 seconds.
2. Even though she is very rich, she is still unhappy.
3. The book, though it was very long, was still very good.
4. After Evelyn studied all night for the exam, she earned an A.
5. People buy less when prices go up.
6. Even though it was only a supporting role, the actor was happy to have a part in the film.
7. The museum was very interesting as I had hoped.
8. The children will play in the sprinklers once they are out of school for summer vacation.
9. I want to go to the mall today because I need to purchase a new shirt.
10. While she waited at the bus station, Mary realized the bus was late.
11. After they left school, Sam and Lily went to get frozen yogurt.

12. The puppy, even though she is still very young, is well-trained.

13. Because Raphael turned in his assignment late, his teacher lowered his grade.

SENTENCE structure

WRITING COMPLEX SENTENCES

Subject – the topic of a sentence

Predicate – the action word in the sentence

Independent clause – a group of words with one subject and one verb that form a complete thought (this is a complete sentence)

Dependent clause – a groups of words with a subject and verb that do not form a complete thought (this is not a sentence)

Complex sentence – a sentence with a dependent clause and an independent clause.

Directions: Turn each dependent clause into a complete, complex sentence by finishing the thought. Don't forget to punctuate the sentences.

EXAMPLE

Before she washed her hair in the evening...

Before she washed her hair in the evening, she checked to see if she had enough shampoo.

1. As the young girl sat on the park bench

As the young girl sat on the park bench, she felt the wind passing by.

2. While the choir sang the song

While the choir sang the song, the audience was watching.

3. Whenever I go to the store

Whenever I go to the store, they are always out of bread.

4. Because the heater is broken

Because the heater is broken, I had to put on a jumper.

5. If he answers all the questions correctly

If he answers all the questions correctly, he'll get to pass his grade.

6. After the teacher graded the essays

After the teacher graded the essays, he went to eat lunch.

7. Whenever the phone rings

Whenever the phone rings, someone has to answer it.

8. As the baseball team warmed up

As the baseball team warmed up, they were getting tired.

9. Because the team lost its game

Because the team lost its game, they had more practice.

10. Since my favorite food is Mexican

Since my favorite food is mexican, I went to eat out at a mexican restaurant.

11. While we wait for school to start

While we wait for school to start, let's walk around the school.

12. As she locked the front door

As she locked the front door, a dog came running up to her.

13. Since the small boy did poorly in preschool

Since the small boy did poorly in preschool, he decided to work hard in the future.

14. After Diego bought a new computer

After Diego bought a new computer, he setted it up at home.

15. Once the dog learns some new tricks

Once the dog learns some new tricks, we can play all day with him.

16. Although it is already past their bedtime

Although it is already past their bedtime, they are still awake.

17. Because I love the color red so much

Because I love the color red so much, I bought a red car.

18. Before Shelby counted her birthday money

Before Shelby counted her birthday money, she opened the card.

SENTENCE structure

UNDERSTANDING THE PARTS OF A SENTENCES

Subject – the topic of a sentence

Predicate – the action word in the sentence

Independent clause – a group of words with one subject and one verb that form a complete thought (this is a complete sentence)

Dependent clause – a groups of words with a subject and verb that do not form a complete thought (this is not a sentence)

Conjunction – a part of speech that links together words and phrases

EXAMPLE

Since she forgot it at home, Jane asked her mom to bring her homework to school, but her mom was at work.

Subject: Jane, mom

Predicate: asked her mom to bring her homework to school, was at work

Independent clause: Jane asked her mom to bring her homework to school, her mom was at work

Dependent clause: Since she forgot it at home

Conjunction: but

Directions: Read each sentence and then identify its subject, conjunction, predicate, independent clause, and dependent clause. If there is no conjunction write NONE.

1. Since Leslie forgot to set her alarm, she was late to school.

Subject	Leslie/she
Conjunction	Since
Predicate	Forgot to set her alarm,she was late to school
Independent Clause	She was late to school
Dependent Clause	Since Leslie forgot to set her alarm.

2. After he ate a gigantic bowl of ice cream, the small boy had a stomach ache.

Subject	He/the small boy
Conjunction	After

Predicate	Ate a gigantic bowl of ice cream,
Independent Clause	The small boy had a stomach ache.
Dependent Clause	After he ate a gigantic bowl of ice cream.

3. Tomorrow's math test is going to be difficult, so I will study tonight.

Subject	Math test/I
Conjunction	so
Predicate	Tomorrow's math test is going to be difficult
Independent Clause	Tomorrow's math test is going to be difficult.
Dependent Clause	So I will study tonight.

4. Even though Benson reads novels, Olivia prefers comics.

Subject	Benson/Olivia
Conjunction	Even though,
Predicate	Even though Benson reads novels.
Independent Clause	Olivia prefers comics.
Dependent Clause	Even though Benson reads novels.

5. Many people enjoy soccer; however, Jenna does not.

Subject	Soccer/Jenna
Conjunction	However
Predicate	Many people enjoy soccer,
Independent Clause	Many people enjoy soccer.
Dependent Clause	Jenna does not.

6. When she was younger, Lucy wanted to be a veterinarian.

Subject	Lucy/She
Conjunction	When
Predicate	When she was younger/Lucy wanted to be a veterinarian
Independent Clause	Lucy wanted to be a veterinarian.
Dependent Clause	When she was younger.

7. Although it was thought to be unsinkable, the Titanic sank on April 15, 1912, and that forever changed ocean travel and safety.

Subject	The Titanic/it
Conjunction	And/although
Predicate	Although it was thought to be unsinkable
Independent Clause	The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912, and that forever changed ocean travel and safety.
Dependent Clause	Although it was thought to be unsinkable

8. Even though he went to bed early, Wesley slept through his alarm, and he was late for a big test.

Subject	He/Wesley
Conjunction	Even though/and
Predicate	Wesley slept through his alarm, and he was late for a big test
Independent Clause	Wesley slept through his alarm - He was late for a big test
Dependent Clause	Even though he went to bed early

SENTENCE structure

IDENTIFYING SENTENCE STRUCTURES - SIMPLE, COMPOUND, COMPLEX

Subject – the topic of a sentence
Predicate – the action word in the sentence
Independent clause – a group of words with one subject and one verb that form a complete thought (this is a complete sentence)
Dependent clause – a groups of words with a subject and verb that do not form a complete thought (this is not a sentence)
Conjunction – a part of speech that links together words and phrases

EXAMPLE

Since she forgot it at home, Jane asked her mom to bring her homework to school, but her mom was at work.

Subject: Jane, mom

Predicate: asked her mom to bring her homework to school, was at work

Independent clause: Jane asked her mom to bring her homework to school, her mom was at work

Dependent clause: Since she forgot it at home

Conjunction: but

Directions: Read each sentence and label it as a simple, compound, or complex sentence.

Ex.	compound	We want to go outside today, but the UV Index is too high.
1.	compound	The three girls tried out for the softball team, but only two made varsity.
2.	Simple	My brother ate the last piece of chocolate.
3.	compound	George plays baseball, and Ashley golfs.
4.	Simple	The baby fell asleep at the park.
5.	complex	While they were at the park, the two small children played.
6.	Compound	My friends are going to the movies tonight, but I am grounded.
7.	Simple	The boy swims.

8.	Simple	The boy swims for the high school swim team.
9.	Complex	Since the boy swims for the school's swim team, he practices every day.
10.	Simple	The tree house was destroyed during the hurricane.
11.	Simple	The landscape company cuts the grass on Saturdays.
12.	Compound	The thunder was very loud, and it woke me up from my nap.
13.	Complex	Since I found the movie to be extremely boring, I turned it off.
14.	Compound	The wind blew the table over, but the chairs were fine.
15.	Simple	She had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch.
16.	Compound	While he was sorting the laundry, the child put a red sock in the whites.
17.	Simple	I raised my hand to answer the question.
18.	Simple	The two children were in a big fight.
19.	Compound	I wanted to watch a movie, but Carol insisted on playing a video game.
20.	Complex	Once Spanish class was over, Rick and Carl went to history.
21.	Simple	My sister is leaving for college in a week.
22.	Compound	My sister snowboards; my brother skis.
23.	Simple	The new vampire book comes out today.
24.	Complex	While Lucy bakes the cake, Owen mixes the frosting.
25.	Complex	Jeff, whom we know to be reliable, will be here at 7:30.
26.	Complex	As the clock struck midnight, the girl had to return home.
27.	Simple	My youngest sister is studying Mandarin and German.
28.	Simple	The teacher demanded answers from the unruly students.

29.	Complex	Since you already know the ending, please don't spoil the episode for me.
30.	Compound	I tripped; he fell.
31.	Simple	The worksheet was really long.
32.	Complex	After he completed sentence number 32, the student sighed.
33.	Compound	My brother likes shows about zombies, but I like shows about vampires.
34.	Compound	The race will be held on Friday, but not everyone will be able to make it.
35.	Simple	It is finally over!

SENTENCE structure

UNDERSTANDING COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES

Independent clause – a group of words with one subject and one verb that form a complete thought (this is a complete sentence)

Dependent clause – a groups of words with a subject and verb that do not form a complete thought (this is not a sentence)

Conjunction (C) – a word that connects words, phrases, or clauses.

Compound-complex sentence – a sentence with a dependent clause and multiple independent clauses.

EXAMPLES

Before going to the store, **my mother makes a grocery list,** **and** I put the reusable bags in the trunk.
dependent clause independent clause independent clause

I had a burrito for lunch, **but** Steven had a sandwich that his mother made for him.
independent clause independent clause dependent clause

Directions: Read each compound-complex sentence. Using the example for reference, underline the dependent clause, highlight each independent clause, and bold the conjunction.

1. Lucy knows my name, **but** she forgot it when she went to introduce me to her parents.
2. I love eating turkey at Christmas, **but** my friend's family eats tamales because it is tradition.
3. After I put away the dishes, I asked my mom for an allowance, **but** she said no.
4. I dislike completing algebraic equations, **and** I don't like geometry, though I love statistics.
5. After Lindsey earned her driver's license, she drove to school, **and** she picked me up.
6. Since both of my parents grew up rather poor, they are thankful for what they have today, **so** our family makes it a priority to give back to the community.

7. While my parents went to the movies, I washed the dishes, **and** my brother mowed the lawn.
8. Jeremy is running for student council, **but** if he wants to win, he will need to make more posters.
9. Ever since she was a little girl, Jenny dreamed of being a doctor when she grew up, **but** as a teenager she is reconsidering her career choices.
10. The school will not fund our club unless we can find a co-sponsor, **but** I have no ideas where to look.

SENTENCE structure

IDENTIFYING SENTENCE STRUCTURES - SIMPLE, COMPOUND, COMPLEX

A **simple sentence** is a single independent clause without any dependent clauses.
A **compound sentence** has multiple independent clauses (IC) and no dependent clauses. Compound sentences are held together by a conjunction.
A **complex sentence** has one independent clause (IC) and at least one dependent clause (DC).
A **compound-complex sentence** has two or more independent clauses (IC) joined with a conjunction & at least one dependent clause (DC).

Directions: Read each sentence and label it as a simple (S), compound (CP), complex (CX), or compound-complex (CC) sentence.

Ex.	S	I have three days until my next test.
1.	CP	For our entrée, we ordered steak and potatoes, but we received Brussels sprouts instead.
2.	S	I washed and vacuumed the car.
3.	CX	Mr. Richards assigned ten pages of the novel for homework, but since I read ahead, I only need to read three pages.
4.	CC	My best friend just got a job, and she said she can get me a discount!
5.	CX	As the seconds slowly ticked away, the students watched the clock.
6.	CP	We have to go to bed when the clock chimes eleven.
7.	S	The big dog ran after the red and green ball.
8.	CX	After they ate their lunch, Ted and Eve rode their bicycles, but Eve got a flat tire.
9.	CP	The band practiced for a long time, but the drummer left early.
10.	CX	Before the Prince rode in the parade, he gave a speech, and he visited the children's hospital.

11.	CP	Many brave soldiers fought in the war, and they received medals.
12.	CX	Since it was too hot, she dropped the pan and the plate.
13.	S	The earthquake nearly destroyed the city.
14.	CP	The aluminums cans go in the recycling bin, and they are collected on Wednesdays.
15.	S	The students learned about sentence structure.