

When you see a word in **orange letters**, that means you can find out more about it by going to the part of the toolkit that is listed in the box at the bottom of the page.

Review:

All sentences are made up of clauses.

A **simple sentence** contains one **independent clause** that states a complete thought.

A **compound sentence** is made up of two or more independent clauses (or simple sentences) that are joined together using a **co-ordinating conjunction** such as “and,” “or” or “but.”



Key Ideas

A **complex sentence** is made up of two or more clauses that are joined together using a **subordinating conjunction** such as *although, since, if, when, and because.*

New Information:

A **complex sentence** is made up of an independent clause and one (or more) subordinate clauses, joined together using a **subordinating conjunction** such as *although, since, if, when, and because.*

Simple Sentence: 1. Ranjit arrived home in time for dinner.

Simple Sentence: 2. He ate very little food.

The two simple sentences above can be combined into one complex sentence by using a **subordinating conjunction**:

Compound Sentence: **Although** Ranjit arrived home in time for dinner, he ate very little food.

LOOK



Where to look for more information:

Simple Sentence: Language Toolkit Part Three, Sentence Structure, section 1

Independent Clause: Language Toolkit Part Three, Sentence Structure, section 2

Co-ordinating Conjunction: Language Toolkit Part One, Parts of Speech, section 8

Subordinating Conjunction: Language Toolkit Part One, Parts of Speech, section 8



SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Section 4. Complex Sentences



Practice #1:

Make each pair of simple sentences below into a complex sentence by using the most appropriate subordinating conjunction (such as *although*, *since*, *if*, *when*, and *because*). Circle the conjunction that you used.

1. The snow fell heavily.
2. Salma is tall.
3. Mr. Ong can not help you today.
4. Ottawa is an important city.
5. I gave up waiting for my friend.

- The driveway had to be shovelled.
- Her brother is short.
- He is very busy.
- It is the capital of Canada.
- She was more than 20 minutes late.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____



Check your Answers

1. Because the snow fell heavily, the driveway had to be shovelled.
2. Although Salma is tall, her brother is short.
3. Mr. Ong cannot help you today, since he is very busy.
4. Ottawa is an important city because it is the capital of Canada.
5. I gave up waiting for my friend when she was more than 20 minutes late.

How did you do? ____/5

You might be correct, even if you used different conjunctions.

Ask an English-speaking older person if you are not sure whether you made a mistake. Record your score on your chart.

If you got all five correct, skip Practice #2, and go on to "Quiz."

If you had some mistakes, please re-read "New Information," and then try Practice #2.





Practice #2:

Make each pair of simple sentences below into a complex sentence by using the most appropriate subordinating conjunction (such as *although*, *since*, *if*, *when*, and *because*). Circle the conjunction that you used.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6. You think I'm smart. | You should see my mom! |
| 7. I was standing in the bus station. | The bus drove in. |
| 8. Mrs. Ali can bake fancy bread. | I will ask her to donate some to our bake sale. |
| 9. Dini will get the lead role in the play. | She is a great performer. |
| 10. The dog was growling. | The mail carrier was very cautious. |

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



Check your Answers

6. If you think I'm smart, you should see my mom!
7. I was standing in the bus station when the bus drove in.
8. Because Mrs. Ali can bake fancy bread, I will ask her to donate some to our bake sale.
9. Dini will get the lead role in the play because she is a great performer.
10. While the dog was growling, the mail carrier was very cautious.

How did you do? ___/5. Record your score on your chart.

You might be correct, even if you used different conjunctions, or put a conjunction in a different place in the sentence. Ask an English-speaking older person if you are not sure whether you made a mistake.

If you are still making mistakes, you need further study. You can find information about complex sentences and subordinating conjunctions on the internet at

<http://www.arts.uottawa.ca/writcent/hypergrammar/sntstrct.html>

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Section 4. Complex Sentences



QUIZ



Put a check mark (✓) to identify which of the following are correct complex sentences. Circle the subordinating conjunction that makes them into complex sentences. For the incorrect sentences, what could you do to make them correct complex sentences?

- _____ 1. When I woke up, I could hear the sound of drums and horns in the distance.
Correction? _____
- _____ 2. I woke up to the sound of drums and horns in the distance, and I could see a parade with clowns and jugglers.
Correction? _____
- _____ 3. A complex sentence contains one or more subordinate clauses.
Correction? _____
- _____ 4. Because there are no signs of life on any other planet in our solar system, visiting aliens must come from planets in orbit around other suns, many billion kilometres away.
Correction? _____
- _____ 5. You snooze, you lose.
Correction? _____

Check your work with the answers below.

- ✓ _____ 1. No correction needed.
- _____ 2. This is a compound sentence. It has a co-ordinating conjunction but no subordinating conjunction. You could make it a complex sentence by beginning the sentence with “when.”
- _____ 3. This is a simple sentence, with one verb and one clause. To make it complex, you would have to add another clause with a verb in it.
- ✓ _____ 4. No correction needed.
- _____ 5. You snooze, you lose. This is a **run-on sentence**: two independent clauses are joined by a comma. To make it a correct complex sentence, you could begin the sentence with “if.”

How did you do? _____/5
Record your score on your chart.

If some of the answers don't make sense to you, you realize that English is a very difficult language to understand completely. But it's worth working hard to understand it as well as possible.

