

## Sentences: COMPOUND, COMPLEX, & COMPOUND-COMPLEX Sentences

- An INDEPENDENT clause is...
- A DEPENDENT clause is...
- Circle the independent clause and underline the dependent clause in the sentence below.
  - When he handed in his homework, he forgot to give the teacher the last page.

Sentence Type	Example from Text (page & line #) <i>(Independent clauses: underline Dependent clauses: double underline)</i>	This Type of Sentence Includes... <i>(How many independent clauses are needed? How many dependent clauses are needed?)</i>	My Own Sentence Example <i>(Create your own example of each type of sentence below.)</i>
<b>Compound Sentence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That was all, and it brought them round to action. (p. 979, line 782)</li> <li>You've gone through everything; listen to what I say. (p. 981, line 864-865)</li> </ul>		
<b>Complex Sentence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scarcely had that island faded in blue air than I saw smoke and white water, with sound of waves in tumult, a sound the men heard, and it terrified them. (p. 978, lines 757-759)</li> <li>My faithful company rested on their oars now, peeling off the wax that I had laid thick on their ears. (p. 978, lines 753-755)</li> </ul>		
<b>Compound Complex Sentence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oars flew from their hands; the blades went knocking wild alongside till the ship lost way, with no oar blades to drive her through the water. (p. 978, lines 760-762)</li> <li>No sooner had I caught sight of our black hull, than savory odors of burnt fat eddied around me; grief took hold of me, and I cried aloud. (p. 982, lines 895-898)</li> </ul>		

## The Compound-Complex Sentence

The compound-complex sentence combines elements of compound and complex sentences. It is the most sophisticated type of sentence you can use. Understanding how to construct the compound-complex sentence will help you take your writing to a new level of complexity.

### Understanding Clauses

A clause is comprised of at least one subject and one verb. There are two types of clauses: the *independent* clause and the *dependent* clause.

#### Independent Clause

An independent clause makes a statement or asks a question that can act as a complete sentence.

*Example: The dog barks.*

#### Dependent Clause

A *dependent* clause cannot act as a complete sentence because it begins with a subordinating word, such as *when, because, if, whoever, etc.*

*Example: When the dog barks.*

All grammatically correct sentences have at least one independent clause, and, therefore, they have at least one subject and one verb.

### Identifying Compound and Complex Sentences

#### The Compound Sentence

A compound sentence is made up of two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, or so*) and a comma or by a semicolon alone.

*Example: The pirate captain lost her treasure map, but she still found the buried treasure.*

#### The Complex Sentence

A complex sentence combines a dependent clause with an independent clause. When the dependent clause is placed before the independent clause, the two clauses are divided by a comma; otherwise, no punctuation is necessary.

*Example: Because the soup was too cold, I warmed it in the microwave.*

### Constructing Compound-Complex Sentences

A compound-complex sentence is comprised of at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

*Example: Though Mitchell prefers watching romantic films, he rented the latest spy thriller, and he enjoyed it very much.*

*Example: Laura forgot her friend's birthday, so she sent her a card when she finally remembered.*

## Exercise

With a partner or on your own, write five of your own compound-complex sentences in the space provided. Use the example below to help guide your writing. After you are finished, write one of your sentences on the board. As a group, we will determine if they are, in fact, compound-complex sentences.

*Example:* Begin with two independent clauses:

*The team captain jumped for joy. The fans cheered.*

Then combine the independent clauses to form a compound sentence:

*The team captain jumped for joy, and the fans cheered.*

Now, add a dependent clause to your compound sentence to create a compound-complex sentence.

*The team captain jumped for joy, and the fans cheered because we won the state championship.*

**OR**

*When we won the state championship, the team captain jumped for joy, and the fans cheered.*