

Complex Sentences

A complex sentence contains one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

(The independent clauses are underlined once; the dependent, twice.)

The fish jumped over the dam when the wave crested.

If you go to the store, buy me a candy bar.

The carpenter who built this house is my brother.



- In the following complex sentences, underline the independent clauses once and the dependent clauses twice.

1. The astronauts left the vehicle when the solar panel failed.
2. The United States became serious about space exploration when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1.
3. If there is life on the moon, humans have not succeeded in finding it.
4. When a spacecraft is put in orbit, many people share the credit.
5. John Glenn, who was the first American to orbit the earth, became a senator.
6. The Apollo program had a lunar module that was capable of landing on the moon and returning to the main vehicle.
7. The Sputnik 1, which was launched in 1957, was the first artificial satellite.
8. When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the lunar surface, he was fulfilling a promise made by President Kennedy earlier in the decade.
9. The United States launched the space shuttle Columbia, which was the first reusable manned spacecraft.
10. The Challenger, which had seven astronauts on board, exploded in midair.
11. Because this disaster was so devastating, all missions were temporarily stopped.

- Write three complex sentences which tell about space exploration.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name: _____

Compound Sentences vs. Complex Sentences

A compound sentence has two independent clauses. It is like two complete sentences combined into one. A complex sentence has a subordinate clause and an independent clause. The subordinate clause modifies a word in the independent clause.

Read the following sentences. Check the box marked "compound" if it is a compound sentence. Check the box marked "complex" if it is a complex sentence.

1. Kerry called the fire department, and they arrived very quickly. Compound Complex
2. After he got home, my father read us a story. Compound Complex
3. We couldn't go to the beach because the car broke down. Compound Complex
4. The magician pulled a rabbit from his hat, but the audience did not applaud. Compound Complex
5. The baby elephant followed its mother because the lion was very close. Compound Complex
6. The forest was dark and gloomy, yet the children ran into it fearlessly. Compound Complex
7. The campers stayed in the tent while the cold rain fell. Compound Complex
8. Jane and Louise bought popcorn before the movie started. Compound Complex
9. Peter worked hard on his homework, yet he didn't finish it. Compound Complex
10. The baseball player ran to second base when the pitcher dropped the ball. Compound Complex

Name: _____

Write a Complex Sentence

Change the sentences below into complex sentences.

1. The colorful parrot flew into the tree.

2. Our cousin wrote us a letter.

3. The wind blows on the mountaintop.

4. Susan laughed loudly at the circus.

5. The cowboy rode a black horse through the town.

6. Jeff and Chris played on the baseball team.

7. I often eat salad.

8. The pirate sailed across the ocean to the island.

Compound/Complex Sentences

A compound/complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.

The independent clauses are underlined once; the dependent, twice.

When the game was over, Seth took the ball, and Larry threw it into the stands.



- In these compound/complex sentences, underline the independent clauses once and the dependent clauses twice.

1. If you have a solution, let us know, and we will try it.

2. Because Trudy had studied previous chess matches, she was able to play brilliantly, and she beat Sid soundly.

3. When we get to the park, Bill will put up the tent, and Carl will start the fire.

4. Though the steak was not fully cooked, Judy cut it, and Ned ate it.

5. Wendell had never gone to college, and he worked at the factory until he won a scholarship.

6. The food was free, and the people who came enjoyed it.

~~7. Though it was brand new, the stereo would not play, and it destroyed my tape.~~

8. Because Jenny broke her arm, she could not play in the concert, and the orchestra sounded terrible.

9. Sara suggested the movie, and Elliot and Michael agreed when they heard her choice.

10. Steven went back to Florida, where he opened a law firm, but it was not a financial success.

11. The enraged inventor sued the company, but when he finally won his case, he was deeply in debt.

- In a book or magazine find three examples of compound/complex sentences. Write them here.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____