

Sentence Types: Simple, Compound, and Complex

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

A SIMPLE sentence has one independent clause. A COMPOUND sentence joins two independent clauses with a comma + FANBOYS or with a semicolon. A COMPLEX sentence has one independent clause + at least one dependent clause (started by because, although, when, if, since, while...). A COMPOUND-COMPLEX sentence has at least two independent clauses AND a dependent clause.

PRACTICE

Choose the best answer for each item.

1. What type of sentence is this? 'The puppy barked, but the kitten ignored him.'
 - A. simple
 - B. compound
 - C. complex
 - D. compound-complex
2. What type of sentence is this? 'Although it rained all morning, the parade still started on time.'
 - A. simple
 - B. compound
 - C. compound-complex
 - D. complex
3. Which is a SIMPLE sentence?
 - A. The runners stretched, and they jogged around the track.
 - B. Before the race began, the runners stretched and jogged.
 - C. The runners stretched and jogged around the track.
 - D. The runners stretched; they jogged around the track.
4. Which is the BEST way to combine these two simple sentences into ONE compound sentence? 'The wind picked up. The kite soared higher.'
 - A. The wind picked up, and the kite soared higher.
 - B. When the wind picked up the kite soared higher.
 - C. The wind picked up the kite soared higher.
 - D. Because the wind picked up, the kite soared higher.



5. What type of sentence is this? 'When the timer beeped, Sam pulled the cookies out, and they cooled on the rack.'
- A. complex
 - B. compound-complex
 - C. compound
 - D. simple
6. Which sentence is COMPOUND?
- A. After lunch, the team practiced free throws for an hour.
 - B. The team practiced free throws after lunch every day.
 - C. If the team practices, the coach is happy with everyone.
 - D. The team practiced free throws, and the coach watched closely.
7. Which sentence is COMPLEX?
- A. The library closed early, so we walked to the park.
 - B. The library closed early; we walked to the park.
 - C. Because the library closed early, we walked to the park.
 - D. The library closed early, and we walked to the park.
8. Which is a CORRECTLY punctuated compound sentence?
- A. Owen finished his book, and started a new one right away.
 - B. Owen finished his book and he started a new one right away.
 - C. Owen finished his book; and he started a new one right away.
 - D. Owen finished his book, and he started a new one right away.
9. What type is this sentence? 'The bell rang and the students hurried to class.'
- A. compound (correctly punctuated)
 - B. compound (run-on — needs a comma)
 - C. complex
 - D. simple
10. Combine these two simple sentences into ONE complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction (because, although, when, if, since, while): 'The snow fell quickly. The roads became dangerous.'



Answer Keys

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Explanations	
1. B	Two independent clauses ('The puppy barked' / 'the kitten ignored him') joined by comma + FANBOYS 'but' = COMPOUND. A simple sentence would have only one clause. Complex would need a dependent clause (because/when/if...). Compound-complex needs both.
2. D	'Although it rained all morning' is a dependent clause (it starts with subordinating 'although'); 'the parade still started on time' is independent — together that's COMPLEX. A simple sentence has no dependent clause; compound needs two independent clauses; compound-complex needs two independents PLUS a dependent.
3. C	C has ONE subject ('runners') and a compound verb ('stretched and jogged') — still ONE independent clause = simple. A is compound (comma + 'and'). B is complex ('Before the race began' is dependent). D is compound (semicolon joins two independent clauses).
4. A	Compound = two independents joined by comma + FANBOYS. A uses ', and'. B and D produce COMPLEX sentences (subordinating 'when' / 'because'). C is a run-on (no punctuation between two independent clauses).
5. B	Two independents ('Sam pulled the cookies out' / 'they cooled on the rack') joined by comma + 'and' PLUS a dependent ('When the timer beeped') = COMPOUND-COMPLEX. Complex would have only one independent. Compound would have no dependent. Simple has only one clause.
6. D	D joins two independent clauses with comma + 'and' = COMPOUND. A and C are complex (dependent clauses 'After lunch' / 'If the team practices'). B is simple (one clause).
7. C	C uses subordinating 'because' to introduce a dependent clause + one independent clause = COMPLEX. A and D are compound (comma + FANBOYS). B is compound (semicolon joins two independents).
8. D	Compound rule: independent clause + COMMA + FANBOYS + independent clause. D follows the rule. A drops the second subject ('he'), so it's now a simple sentence with a compound verb (no comma needed). B is a run-on (no comma). C wrongly uses a semicolon AND 'and'.
9. B	Two independents joined by 'and' WITHOUT a comma = a run-on; a correctly punctuated compound needs a comma before 'and'. A is wrong because the comma is missing. C is wrong because there's no subordinator. D is wrong because there are two clauses, not one.
10.	Answer: Because the snow fell quickly, the roads became dangerous. (Or: When the snow fell quickly, the roads became dangerous.) Accept any complex sentence that uses ONE subordinating conjunction to attach a dependent clause to an independent clause. If the dependent clause comes first, a comma must follow it. Mark wrong if the student uses a FANBOYS word (and, but, so) — that creates a compound, not complex — or writes a run-on with no conjunction.

