

# Sentence Structures: Simple, Compound, Complex, Compound-Complex

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

Count the clauses to name the structure. **SIMPLE** = one independent clause. **COMPOUND** = two (or more) independent clauses joined by a coordinator (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) with a comma, **OR** by a semicolon. **COMPLEX** = one independent clause + at least one dependent clause (signaled by a subordinator: because, although, when, if, while, since, that, who). **COMPOUND-COMPLEX** = two or more independent clauses + at least one dependent clause.

## PRACTICE

Choose the correct answer for each question.

- Which sentence is **SIMPLE** (one independent clause)?
  - After school, Liam and his sister walked to the park and tossed a frisbee for an hour.
  - After school, Liam walked to the park, and his sister tossed a frisbee for an hour.
  - After school, Liam walked to the park because his sister wanted to toss a frisbee.
  - After school, Liam walked to the park, and because the weather was perfect, they stayed all afternoon.
- Which sentence is **COMPOUND**?
  - When the bell rang, the students hurried to the gym.
  - The students hurried to the gym and waited for the coach.
  - Because the coach was late, the students stretched on their own.
  - The bell rang, and the students hurried to the gym.
- Which sentence is **COMPLEX**?
  - Although the test was difficult, every student in the class earned a passing score.
  - The test was difficult, but every student in the class earned a passing score.
  - The test was difficult; every student in the class earned a passing score.
  - The test was difficult and challenging for every student in the class.
- Which sentence is **COMPOUND-COMPLEX**?
  - After the movie ended, we walked home in the rain.
  - We walked home in the rain, and we shared an umbrella.
  - We walked home in the rain because the bus had already left.
  - After the movie ended, we walked home in the rain, and we shared one umbrella.



5. How many INDEPENDENT clauses are in this sentence? 'Although the trail was steep, we kept climbing, and we reached the summit by noon.'
- A. one
  - B. two
  - C. three
  - D. four
6. Which revision converts the simple sentence into a COMPLEX sentence? 'The puppy chewed my shoe.'
- A. The puppy chewed my shoe, and it shredded the laces.
  - B. The puppy chewed my shoe; the laces were shredded.
  - C. The puppy chewed my shoe and the matching slipper.
  - D. The puppy chewed my shoe while I was at school.
7. Identify the structure of this sentence: 'The team practiced all week; on Saturday, they won the championship.'
- A. compound
  - B. simple
  - C. complex
  - D. compound-complex
8. Which sentence is SIMPLE despite its length?
- A. Because the lake was frozen solid, the skaters glided across it all afternoon.
  - B. The skaters glided across the frozen lake, and the photographer captured every spin.
  - C. The skaters from three different schools glided across the frozen lake for the entire afternoon.
  - D. The skaters glided across the frozen lake; the photographer captured every spin.
9. Rewrite the following two simple sentences as ONE COMPOUND-COMPLEX sentence. Use at least one subordinator and one coordinator. 'The power went out. We lit candles. We finished our homework anyway.'

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10. Write ONE original COMPLEX sentence about a sport or hobby you enjoy. Then label the dependent clause by writing 'DEP:!' and copying the dependent clause underneath.

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# Answer Keys

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Explanations	
<b>1. A</b>	A simple sentence has ONE independent clause; it may have a compound subject ('Liam and his sister') and a compound verb ('walked...and tossed'), but only one subject-verb structure. A fits. B is compound (two independent clauses joined by ', and'). C is complex (one independent + 'because' dependent clause). D is compound-complex (two independents + one dependent).
<b>2. D</b>	A compound sentence joins two INDEPENDENT clauses with a coordinator and comma (or a semicolon). D does this: 'The bell rang' + ', and' + 'the students hurried to the gym'. A is complex (subordinator 'when'). B is simple (compound verb, one subject). C is complex (subordinator 'because').
<b>3. A</b>	A complex sentence has one independent clause + at least one dependent clause. A opens with 'Although' (subordinator) + subject + verb — a dependent clause — followed by the independent clause. B is compound (' , but'). C is compound (semicolon joining two independents). D is simple (one subject, one verb).
<b>4. D</b>	Compound-complex needs TWO independent clauses + AT LEAST ONE dependent clause. D has the dependent clause 'After the movie ended' plus two independents ('we walked home in the rain' and 'we shared one umbrella'). A is complex (one dependent + one independent). B is compound (two independents). C is complex (one independent + one dependent).
<b>5. B</b>	Two independent clauses: 'we kept climbing' and 'we reached the summit by noon'. 'Although the trail was steep' is a dependent clause because it begins with the subordinator 'although'. Counting that as an independent clause is the most common Grade 7 error. The full sentence is compound-complex (two independents + one dependent).
<b>6. D</b>	A complex sentence requires one independent clause plus a dependent clause led by a subordinator. D adds the dependent clause 'while I was at school'. A is compound (' , and'). B is compound (semicolon). C just extends the object — still a simple sentence.
<b>7. A</b>	Two independent clauses joined by a semicolon = compound. 'The team practiced all week' stands alone; 'on Saturday, they won the championship' stands alone. No subordinator, so no dependent clause is present. B is wrong because there are two clauses. C and D both require a dependent clause.
<b>8. C</b>	A simple sentence is defined by its STRUCTURE (one independent clause), not its length. C has one subject ('skaters'), one verb ('glided'), and a long prepositional phrase string — still simple. A is complex ('because'). B is compound (' , and'). D is compound (semicolon).



<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Answer:</b> When the power went out, we lit candles, and we finished our homework anyway. (Or: Because the power went out, we lit candles, and we finished our homework anyway.)                  A compound-complex sentence needs two independent clauses + at least one dependent clause. Turn one simple sentence into a dependent clause with a subordinator (when, because, after, since, although) and join the other two with a comma + coordinator or a semicolon. Mark wrong if the result has only one independent clause, no dependent clause, or is written as more than one sentence.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Answer:</b> Whenever I finish my homework early, I practice piano for thirty minutes. DEP: Whenever I finish my homework early (Sample — any complex sentence with one independent + one correctly labeled dependent clause is acceptable.)                  A complex sentence requires exactly one independent clause plus at least one dependent clause introduced by a subordinator (because, when, although, if, since, while, after, before, that, who). Accept any sentence with that structure and a correctly identified dependent clause. Mark wrong if the student writes a simple, compound, or compound-complex sentence, or if the part labeled DEP is actually a phrase (no subject-verb pair) or an independent clause.</p>



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