

Complex Sentences #1

Name: _____

You've already learned that a clause has a subject and a verb. There are two kinds of clauses:

1. An independent clause
2. A dependent clause

Dependent Clause: A dependent clause has a subject and a verb. However, it has NO complete thought. It needs an independent clause. Therefore, it is dependent on the independent clause.

Example: After Tyler called his friend. . . Subject = Tyler Verb = Called

Independent Clause: An independent clause has a subject, verb, and a complete thought. It is a sentence.

Example: He met him at the park.

Simple Sentence: A simple sentence only has a subject and a complete predicate.

Examples: *The dog barked.* / *The big, hairy dog with sharp teeth barked at the mailman.*

Complex Sentence: A dependent clause needs an independent clause. When you put the two together, you have a complex sentence.

Examples: *When the mailman arrived, the dog barked.*

Dependent clause Independent Clause

Subordinate Conjunctions: Subordinate conjunctions connect a dependent clause with an independent clause. Here are some examples:

after although because before if once unless until whenever while

Directions: Write "Dependent Clause" under the dependent clause and "Independent Clause" under the independent clause. Circle the subordinate conjunction.

1. The mailman wouldn't deliver our mail after my dog bit him in the leg.
Independent Clause **Dependent Clause**
2. Sarah could have done better on the assignment, although she did receive an A.
3. Because she didn't say, "Mother may I?" she had to start over.
4. Before my mom would let me spend the night, she had to talk to Jamie's mom.
5. If you study for the test, you will do much better.
6. Once the play started, we were not allowed to talk.
7. We won't be able to play unless the rain stops by noon.
8. Rex practiced his guitar until he could play the song perfectly.
9. Whenever I think about my third grade teacher, I have a warm feeling inside.
10. We played games while the adults sat and talked.

**Complex Sentences
#2**

Directions: Write “Dependent Clause” under the dependent clause and “Independent Clause” under the independent clause. Circle the subordinate conjunction.

1. The mailman wouldn't deliver our mail after my dog bit him in the leg.
Independent Clause **Dependent Clause**
2. Because we were all so tired, we decided to go home early.
3. Unless we do all of our homework, we won't be able to play.
4. My dog waited at the door for us until we got home.
5. Although none of us wanted to leave, we had to be home before midnight.
6. If Charlie doesn't stop teasing that dog, the dog is going to bite him.
7. We took pictures while the monkeys swung from the trees.
8. Whenever my sister gets in trouble, my dad makes her weed the garden.
9. Once school starts, you need a pass to get into your class.
10. Before you accuse someone of stealing your pencil, make sure it isn't just lost.
11. I had to go to the dentist because my back tooth started to hurt.
12. After I finished my project, I asked my dad to check it for mistakes.
13. If I had hit the ball five more feet, it would have been a homerun.
14. We could not go to the movies until my baby sister woke up from her nap.
15. Alice played the piano while Mary played her flute.

Extension: Use each subordinate conjunction below in a complex sentence. Skip lines. When finished, write “Independent Clause” under the independent clauses and “Dependent Clause” below the dependent clauses.

after because before if once unless when wherever whether while

Name: _____

Complex Sentences #3

Directions: Write a dependent clause that turns the simple sentence into a complex sentence. Use the subordinate conjunctions in the extension below for ideas.

1. While we sang at the concert , parents recorded the show with their video cameras.
2. _____ , we will be going to camp.
3. _____ , Dad changed the flat tire.
4. The police searched every house _____ .
5. I like to eat cotton candy _____ .
6. _____ , you can go to the movies on Saturday.
7. _____ , everyone stopped what they were doing.
8. We talked on the phone for hours _____ .
9. We had a hard time finding our way home _____ .
10. _____ , the girls did each others' hair.
11. _____ , we'll have to take two cars.
12. _____ , we sang camp songs for hours.
13. Dawn and I couldn't stop giggling _____ .
14. We stared into space with our mouths wide open _____ .
15. Timmy hopped from one foot to the other _____ .

Extension: Your dog has escaped and wants to play hide and seek. It's your job to track him down. Write a one paragraph story about your attempts to catch him. Use at least three (3) complex sentences. Use the subordinate conjunctions below for ideas.

after as because before if once since so unless
when whenever wherever whether while

Name: _____

Complex Sentences #4

Directions: Write a dependent clause that turns the simple sentence into a complex sentence.

1. While we sang at the concert , parents recorded the show with their video cameras.
2. _____ , I froze like a statue.
3. _____ , the officer walked into the room and asked, "Who's in charge here?"
4. Patsy put her face in her hands and started crying _____ .
5. We bought a huge tub of popcorn _____ .
6. _____ , the boys began chucking snowballs everywhere.
7. _____ , the captain had to wash the deck of the boat.
8. The kids jumped in the air and screamed _____ .
9. Rover did all kinds of tricks _____ .
10. _____ , Frank wondered why no one was here.
11. _____ , the teacher wrote their homework on the board.
12. _____ , a bear broke into our tent and ate our food.
13. We waited in line for tickets _____ .
14. Julian stuffed a dozen marshmallows into his mouth _____ .
15. Everyone stampeded out of the room _____ .

Extension: Think of a task that can be explained easily. For example, you can explain how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Write a one paragraph explanation of how to do that task. Use at least three (3) complex sentences. Use the subordinate conjunctions below for ideas.

after as because before if once since so unless
when whenever wherever whether while