

జనరల్ ఇంగ్లీష్

SIMPLE, COMPOUND AND COMPLEX SENTENCES

A group of words which makes complete sense is called a Sentence.

e.g.: Hyderabad is known as the City of Pearls.

Parts of a Sentence: The main parts of a sentence are two; **Subject** and **Predicate**.

★ The part which names the person or thing which we are talking about is called the subject and the part which tells something about the subject is called the predicate.

For example, in the sentence 'Hyderabad is known as the City of Pearls', 'Hyderabad' is the subject and 'is known as the City of Pearls' is the predicate.

★ A sentence may contain **phrases** and **clauses**.

★ A phrase is a group of words that makes some sense but not complete sense. It has no *finite verb**. It forms a part of a sentence. It has no subject and predicate of its own.

He jumped into the river.

★ A clause is also a part of sentence but it makes complete sense. It has a subject and a predicate of its own. It has a finite verb.

This is the book which I purchased yesterday.

{* Finite verb forms show tense, person and number (I go, she goes, we went, etc.)}

Types of Clauses

Clauses are of two types. They are **Subordinate Clause** and **Main Clause**

Subordinate Clause: A clause which can't stand by itself and doesn't give complete meaning is called *Subordinate Clause*.

Unless they invite me I will not attend the party.

Main Clause: A clause which stands by itself and gives complete meaning is called Main Clause.

Although he was absent for many classes, he passed the exam with distinction.

Types of Sentences

Based on the number of main and subordinate clauses, sentences are divided into three kinds.

Simple Sentence: A sentence which has only one clause which is independent is called a Simple Sentence.

It may have non-finite verbs like participle, gerund, to infinitive but it has only one finite verb.

He worked hard in order to achieve success.

Compound Sentence: A sentence which consists of two or more independent (main) clauses is called a Compound Sentence. Each clause can stand by itself as a meaningful unit or sentence. The clauses are often connected with conjunctions such as '**and, or, but, so, yet, not only..... but also, still, however, therefore, 'either.. or', 'neither.. nor'**' etc.,

He worked hard so he got a very good rank.

Main Clause – 1

Main Clause – 2

Complex Sentence: A sentence which consists of one main clause and one or more sub-ordinate clauses is called a Complex Sentence. The main clause stands independently as a unit and makes complete sense. But the sub-ordinate clause depends on the main clause to give complete sense.

The subordinating conjunctions in complex sentences include: **because, as, since, unless, if, though, 'so..... that', which, who, whom, when** etc.

e.g.: As it is very hot,
Sub-ordinate Clause
we have decided to stay indoors.
Main Clause

Interchange of Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences

Conversion of one type of sentence into another requires changing a phrase into a clause or vice versa.

Simple to Compound: a phrase into a main clause

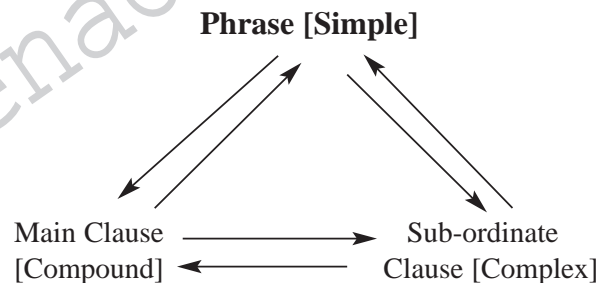
Simple to Complex: a phrase into a subordinate clause

Compound to Simple: a main clause into a phrase

Compound to Complex : a main clause into a subordinate clause

Complex to Simple : a subordinate clause into a phrase

Complex to Compound : a subordinate clause into a main clause



In many cases, a sentence can be written in three different ways, making it simple, complex or compound as the case may be.

Some examples;

- I. **Simple:** Being rich he can travel by air.
Complex: As he is rich he can travel by air.
Compound: He is rich so he can travel by air.
- II. **Simple:** In case of not working hard, you will fail.
Complex: Unless you work hard, you will fail.
Compound: Work hard otherwise you will fail.
- III. **Simple:** In spite of his old age, he can run fast.
Complex: Although he is old, he can run fast.
Compound: He is old but he can run fast.

Combination of Simple Sentences into another Simple Sentence

Two or more simple sentences can be combined into a simple sentence by using a participle/ a prepositional phrase/ an adverb phrase/ an infinitive.

Some Examples:

Agent	Simple Sentences	Simple Sentence
Participle	He saw the tiger. He ran away.	Seeing the tiger he ran away.
Prepositional phrase	She made a flower. She used colour papers.	She made a flower with colour papers.
Adverb	He argued with her. That was foolish.	He foolishly argued with her.
Infinitive	You must work hard. You will achieve your goal.	You must work hard to achieve.

Combination of Simple Sentences into a Compound Sentence

Two or more simple sentences can be combined into a compound sentence by making use of coordinating conjunctions.

Some Examples:

Co-ordinating Conjunction	Simple Sentences	Compound Sentence
as well as	Rakesh is absent. Vinay is also absent.	Rakesh, as well as Vinay, is absent.
but/ yet	She is poor. She is happy.	She is poor, but/ yet she is happy.
or	Run fast. You will miss the train.	Run fast or you will miss the train.
not only... but also	Radha is beautiful. She is intelligent.	Radha is not only beautiful but also intelligent.
so	She is ill. She cannot continue her job.	She is ill so she cannot continue her job.
neither.... nor	The film is not entertaining. It is not message oriented.	The film is neither entertaining nor message oriented.
either... or	You can listen to the lecture. You can leave the room.	You can either listen to the lecture or leave the room.

Combination of Simple Sentences into a Complex Sentence

Two or more simple sentences can be combined into a complex sentence making use of subordinating conjunctions.

Some Examples:

Subordinating Conjunctions	Simple Sentences	Complex Sentence
although	He is rich. He leads a simple life.	Although he is rich, he leads a simple life.
as/ since/ because	It is raining. We cannot go out.	As/ Since/ Because it is raining, we cannot go out.
unless	Work hard. Otherwise, you will not pass.	Unless you work hard, you will not pass.
besides	Suhas is clever. He is industrious. industrious.	Besides being clever, Suhas is also
who	A man is standing there. He is my uncle.	The man who is standing there is my uncle.

PRACTICE TEST

- Which of the following sentences is a Simple Sentence?
 - I know that I am rude.
 - Goutam never gets bored sitting in front of his computer for hours each day, chatting with his friends online, watching movies, playing video games, and surfing the Web.
 - Do or die.
 - Where there is a will, there is a way.
- Which of the following sentences is a Complex Sentence?
 - I can't say when he will come.
 - The weather being very pleasant, all the final year students of the college have decided to go on a picnic to the nearby hill station to refresh themselves from their daily routines.
 - Gopi took several incredible panoramic photographs of the sweeping view from the top of the mountain.
 - The right hemisphere of the human brain typically controls muscle movement on the left side of the body.
- Which of the following sentences is a Compound Sentence?
 - Their tools are screwdrivers and spanners rather than basketballs and footballs.
 - Michael Jackson could both sing and dance.
 - Joseph Rudyard Kipling was an English journalist, short-story writer, poet, and novelist.
 - Leonardo da Vinci, who was a renowned painter and sculptor, was also an inventor and scientist.

4. The servant was ill–treated by his mistress. He ran away.
(Combine the above sentences into a Complex Sentence)
- 1) The ill–treated servant ran away from his mistress.
 - 2) The ill–treating mistress made her servant ran away.
 - 3) Being ill–treated by his mistress, the servant ran away.
 - 4) Since the servant was ill–treated by his mistress, he ran away.
5. Combine the following sentences into one Simple Sentence.
It was Sunday. She woke up late.
- 1) As it was Sunday, she woke up late.
 - 2) Being Sunday, she woke up late.
 - 3) It being Sunday, she woke up late.
 - 4) She woke up late on Sunday.
6. In spite of his hard work he failed. (Convert into a Compound Sentence)
- 1) Although he worked hard, he failed.
 - 2) He worked hard, but failed.
 - 3) Despite his hard work he failed.
 - 4) His hard work failed.
7. He was ignorant. He admitted it. (Combine these two sentences into one Simple Sentence)
- 1) He was ignorant but he admitted it.
 - 2) Being ignorant, he admitted it.
 - 3) In spite of his ignorance, he admitted it.
 - 4) He admitted his ignorance.

ANSWERS

1-2; 2-1; 3-2; 4-4; 5-3; 6-2; 7-4.

Writer: CVS Ravindranath