

THE COMPLEX SENTENCE

The complex sentence consists of one main clause and one or more subordinating clauses. The subordinate clause modifies a word in the main clause.

After Dan studies, he often watches television. (subordinate clause modifies watches)

This is the week when the Todds go on vacation. (subordinate clause modifies week)

After Ann made the salad, she set the table. (subordinate clause modifies set)

Identifying Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences. Read the following sentences, and indicate whether each is simple, compound, or complex.

Example: I'm going to bed early because I'm tired. complex

1. We rang the doorbell, but no one answered it. _____
2. I wrote Jane a letter while she was away at camp. _____
3. Have you seen Mr. Nelson's garden at the back of his house? _____
4. When Miss Jones entered the room, we all became quiet. _____
5. Susan likes chemistry, but she likes physics better. _____
6. Since we've lost every game but one, no one is excited about football this year. _____
7. When I'm tired, I'm not good company for anyone. _____
8. Wandering aimlessly up the path, Mr. Cutter approached the house. _____
9. Susan sang a solo and accompanied herself on the piano. _____
10. When the rain began, we were playing tennis. _____
11. When Uncle Jack comes to town, we all have a good time. _____
12. I worked all morning, and then I relaxed in the afternoon. _____
13. Beth likes all seasons of the year, but she likes fall best. _____
14. On our trip we drove every afternoon until five o'clock. _____
15. Dave began to feel better before the doctor arrived. _____
16. Whistling loudly, Ken walked past the cemetery. _____
17. How many states can you see from Lookout Mountain? _____
18. If you want your car really clean, let George wash it. _____
19. I must stay home until the man comes to repair the washing machine. _____
20. Our neighbors are going to Canada on their vacation, but we will take our vacation at home. _____

1. We rang the doorbell, but no one answered it. compound
2. I wrote Jane a letter while she was away at camp. complex
3. Have you seen Mr. Nelson's garden at the back of his house? simple
4. When Miss Jones entered the room, we all became quiet. complex
5. Susan likes chemistry, but she likes physics better. compound
6. Since we've lost every game but one, no one is excited about football this year. complex
7. When I'm tired, I'm not good company for anyone. complex
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