

LET'S FOCUS ON SIMPLE SENTENCES

ANSWER KEY

WHAT IS A SIMPLE SENTENCE?

A **simple sentence**, (also called an **independent clause**), contains a subject and a verb, and it expresses a complete thought.

Example: Josephine loves cooking.

PLEASE
NOTE

A simple sentence **one** subject-verb combination can have a compound subject and/or a compound verb.

John and Hugo ran to the park and played tennis.

EXERCISE 1

For each of the following simple sentences, underline the subject and circle the main verb (or verb combination).

1. The teacher plans to mark the books this evening.
2. Jerry will be going to the shops today.
3. Jennifer, Susan and Carly will be organizing the school dance this year.
4. The school management committee organized and implemented the necessary changes.
5. The boy in the corner pouted and grumbled for the whole lesson.

EXERCISE 2

Identify whether the following are simple sentences or not by ticking the YES or NO box. If NO, then give a reason why not.

		Yes	No	Reason
1	Susan likes to cycle at night.	✓		
2	Every year at this time.		X	There is no subject or verb.
3	My father will never forgive you.	✓		
4	Jimmy, that really tall boy and I.		X	There is a subject, but no verb.
5	Sophie ate a burger, and I ate pizza.		X	There are two subject-verb combinations.
6	All of the students were late.	✓		
7	Was so easy to do.		X	There is a verb, but no subject.

EXERCISE 3

Write three of your own simple sentences below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Writing exercise – no strict answer key.

LET'S FOCUS ON COMPOUND SENTENCES

ANSWER KEY

WHAT IS A COMPOUND SENTENCE?

A **compound sentence** contains two or more independent clauses (simple sentences), which are normally joined by a conjunction (such as *and* or *but*).

Example: Josephine loves cooking, yet she hates baking.

PLEASE NOTE

We generally place a comma after the first independent clause and before the coordinating conjunction.

I like painting, but Ray likes drawing.

EXERCISE 1

Below are a variety of simple sentences. You must choose at least two (you can choose more than two), and join them to form 3 compound sentences.

John waited for the bus. | Matthew read a book. | He ate an apple. | It was cold.
He was hungry. | He enjoyed it. | It was hot. | He needed to get to school.
He went inside. | It was late. | He thought about it. | It was just what he needed.

4. John waited for the bus, but it was late, and he needed to get to school.

5. He was hungry, so he ate an apple, and it was just what he needed.

6. It was late, and he needed to get to school, but he went inside and Matthew read a book.

EXAMPLES

(Other possible answers)

EXERCISE 2

Identify whether the following are compound sentences or not by ticking the YES or NO box. If NO, then give a reason why not.

		Yes	No	Reason
1	My father and I both love eating pizza and pasta.		X	Only one (compound) subject and finite verb.
2	I need you but not your bad attitude.		X	Only one subject and finite verb.
3	He ran fast, but she beat him.	✓		
4	Jim studied a lot, but he failed the exam.	✓		
5	My mother loves reading but not sci-fi books.		X	Only one subject and finite verb.

EXERCISE 3

Below, write three compound sentences of your own.

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Writing exercise – no strict answer key.

LET'S FOCUS ON COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES

ANSWER KEY

WHAT IS A COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE?

As its name suggests, it is a blend of a compound and complex sentence. A **compound-complex sentence** is made from two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

Example: Although I like cooking, I don't cook every day, but I would like to cook more often.

EXERCISE 1

Underline the **independent** clauses, and put brackets around the **dependent (subordinate)** clauses, in the sentences below.

1. [While she was running around the shop] my mother realized she had left her wallet at home, and she had no money with her.
2. Suzie's parents thought that the movie was too frightening, but the party guests, [who like to watch scary movies], watched it anyway.
3. [Although I cannot sing], I joined the choir, and I really enjoyed it.
4. Our teacher forgot to grade our tests, so she baked us cookies [when she remembered].
5. [While he was camping], a raccoon bit Stuart, and he was taken to hospital.

EXERCISE 2

Identify whether the following are compound-complex sentences or not by ticking the YES or NO box. If NO, then give a reason why not.

		Yes	No	Reason
1	When he was sick, Tony missed the class test.		X	There is only one independent clause.
2	While we were eating sushi, my friend told me she was allergic to fish, but she was already having a reaction.	✓		
3	Beth and Chris were desperate to go to the park.		X	There is only one independent clause and no subordinate clause.
4	I like carrots, but I love broccoli, which is currently in season.	✓		
5	Although I like the cinema, I am grounded, so my parents won't let me go.	✓		

EXERCISE 3

Below, write two compound-complex sentences of your own.

3. _____
4. _____

Writing exercise - no strict answer key.

LET'S FOCUS ON COMPLEX SENTENCES

ANSWER KEY

WHAT IS A COMPLEX SENTENCE?

A **complex sentence** has an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses (or subordinate clauses), which cannot stand alone.

Example: Although she is allergic, she ate the seafood.

subordinate clause as it cannot stand alone - it gives more information about the independent clause.

EXERCISE 1 Underline the **dependent (subordinate)** clauses in the sentences below.

1. The economy is growing although unemployment is increasing.
2. My father, who I think you'd like, enjoyed your cake.
3. Even though you are unwell, will you come to the party?
4. Edith burned the dinner because she had forgotten about it.
5. Roses, which I don't even like, grow in the garden, even though I never water them.
6. After they finished studying, the children went to the movies even though they knew they weren't allowed.

EXERCISE 2 Identify whether the following are complex sentences or not by ticking the YES or NO box. If NO, then give a reason why not.

		Yes	No	Reason
1	Dan can play the piano although he never does.	✓		
2	My sister continues to excel while my grades are failing.	✓		
3	I love to go to bed late, but my sister goes to bed early.		X	There are two independent clauses.
4	Julie and Vicky went to play in the park and walk the dog.		X	This is a simple sentence.
5	Although I really do enjoy hiking, and don't want to disappoint you.		X	There is no independent clause (it is just a subordinate clause)
6	As soon as he finished his homework, he went outside.	✓		

EXERCISE 3 Below, write three complex sentences of your own.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Writing exercise - no strict answer key.

ANSWER KEY

SENTENCE TYPES

SENTENCES, IDENTIFY WHETHER THEY ARE SIMPLE, COMPOUND, COMPLEX OR COMPOUND-COMPLEX.

SIMPLE, COMPOUND, COMPLEX OR COMPOUND-COMPLEX

- 1 My son can be difficult sometimes, but overall he is a good boy. - Compound
- 2 The woman, who called my mother, was my aunt. - Complex
- 3 Jenny loves to sing opera and dance in her bedroom. - Simple
- 4 After they finished watching the movie, John and Mary discussed what they wanted to eat. - Complex
- 5 The school administration decided to close the school for the day, so the teachers all went home. - Compound
- 6 While she was reading a book, Sandy heard a loud bang, so she went outside to investigate. - Compound-Complex
- 7 When I stepped outside, I was blinded by the sunlight - Complex
As Beth's father knew she liked sweet things, he bought her a
- 8 chocolate cake for her birthday, and she was extremely grateful. - Compound-Complex
- 9 Timothy is a terrible cook, so he eats out every night. - Compound
- 10 In the garden, the man shouted and waved to his neighbor. - Simple
- 11 The teacher walked into the classroom, greeted the students, and took attendance. - Simple
- 12 Although Federer is the better tennis player, he lost. - Complex
- 13 The shop was filled with many delicious cakes, a fridge filled with pastries, and a delectable smell. - Simple
- 14 Juan played computer games while Antonia went and cooked dinner. - Complex
- 15 Lightening flashed, and thunder clapped as he left the building. - Compound-Complex
- 16 Although Jo didn't want to go, he went with Susan to the dance. - Complex
- 17 Raj passed the test because he studied hard and listened in class. - Complex
- 18 Sophie didn't like the present, but she said, "I love it." - Compound

