

Sentences: Simple, Compound, and Complex



Ricky wants to know what makes a sentence simple, compound, or complex. Nicky has displayed simple rules that differentiate the three types of sentences. Read the pointers and note the given examples.

Simple Sentence	Compound Sentence	Complex Sentence
→ one complete thought	→ two simple sentences joined by , + connecting words (and / or / but...)	→ a simple sentence + a group of words that cannot stand alone
Ricky is studying with me.	Ricky is studying with me, and I am helping him.	Ricky studies with me when he is confused.



The pointers on the yellow screen say the following:

- If a sentence has one complete thought, it is a **simple sentence**.
- If it contains two simple sentences joined by a conjunction, it is a **compound sentence**.
- If a simple sentence is combined with a group of words that does not convey a complete thought, it is a **complex sentence**.

★ Identify the **types of sentences** given in each set. Two have been done for you.

- Kang and Tang were cousins. They disliked each other. 2 simple sentences
Although Kang and Tang were cousins, they disliked each other. 1 complex sentence
- Kang and Tang were pandas. They lived with their relatives. 2 simple sen
Kang and Tang were pandas, and they lived with their relatives. 1 compound sen
- Kang found a juicy bamboo stem. Tang snatched it from him. 2 simple sen
When Kang found a juicy bamboo stem, Tang snatched it from him. 1 - Complex Sen
- "You will have to stop fighting." "You will be forced to leave this place." 2 simple sen
"You will have to stop fighting, or you will be forced to leave this place." 1 compound sen
- The two cousins had no choice. They decided to become friends. 2 - Simple sen
As the two cousins had no choice, they decided to become friends. 1 - complex sen

Say it aloud

- ☐ A **simple sentence** contains a subject – verb pair. It expresses a complete thought: I sing.
- ☐ A **compound sentence** contains two simple sentences joined by a **conjunction**, such as **and**, **but**, **or**, **so**, **yet**, **for**, and **nor**. E.g. I sing and I dance.
- ☐ A **complex sentence** contains a simple sentence combined with a group of words that **cannot** stand alone as an independent sentence. E.g. I sing when I am happy.



A **complex sentence** has a group of words that does not convey a complete thought. The group of words is **dependent** on the simple sentence to make its meaning clear.

★ In each of the given sentences does the underlined group of words express a complete thought? Read and check. Write **yes** or **no** accordingly. Note the examples.

- The animals came with their offsprings because Jupiter invited them.
- As far as they knew, Jupiter was going to judge the best looking offspring.
- A vixen looked proudly at her offspring, for she was sure of her baby's win.
- While the vixen was admiring her baby, a mama monkey came with an ugly baby.
- When she entered the hall, other animals laughed at the baby monkey.
- Although her baby was ugly, Mama monkey was very proud of him.
- When the animals laughed, she declared her baby as the prettiest.
- After she had finished, Jupiter handed over the award to the baby monkey.

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

No

Yes

No



The words in the box below are called **subordinating conjunctions**. They appear in complex sentences at the beginning of the group of words that does not express a complete thought. Read and remember.

after	although	as	as if	as though	as far as
because	before	even if	even though	if	in case of
now that	once	since	so that	when	whether
while	till	unless	until	whenever	wherever

★ Use the **subordinating conjunction** that correctly completes each complex sentence.

- When Meeta handed in her worksheet, she forgot to write her name. (When / After)
- We are studying because we have a test tomorrow. (after / because)
- The children will go to play after they finish their test. (after / since)
- When the Sun began to set, the children scampered home. (When / Although)
- Unless you practise, it is not easy to learn about complex sentences. (Unless / Once)
- Now that you know about subordinators, write more complex sentences. (Now that / Unless)