



Sentences : Simple, Compound and Complex

Learning Outcomes

- Students will differentiate between simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- They will identify sentence types in paragraphs.
- They will construct sentences of varying complexity.



Lead in

Circle the sentence which has only one object and underline the sentence which has more than one object.

One day Sourav, Ashis and other friends were playing cricket. Sourav was bowling the ball and Ashis was batting. Other players were fielding. They used to stop the ball and tried to catch the high rising ball. In this way, they tried to keep Sourav's total runs low.



Simple Sentences

Read the following sentences:

I spoke to him in English.

What is the verb in this sentence? - **spoke**.

What kind of verb is it? - **finite**.

Is there any other verb in this sentence? No.

This sentence has only one finite verb, so this is called a simple sentence.



Grammar Byte

- ◉ A sentence which has one finite verb is called a **Simple Sentence**.

Now read the following sentence

The man with his wife and two sons came to my sister's marriage party in a new car yesterday.

It is a long sentence. Still it has only one finite verb **came**. So, it is also a simple sentence. A simple sentence does not mean a small sentence. It means a sentence with only one finite verb.



Grammar Byte

- ⦿ A sentence which has only one finite verb is called a **simple sentence**.
- ⦿ A simple sentence may either be a small sentence or a long sentence.
- ⦿ A simple sentence may have a double subject.

Examples :

1. **Jack** and **Jill** climbed the hill.

- ⦿ A simple sentence may have a double object.

Example :

1. Nisha ate a **mango** and an **apple**.

Compound Sentences

Now, read the following sentence:

1. We spoke to him in English, but he replied in Telugu.

There are two finite verbs in this sentence : **spoke** (with **we** as its subject) and **replied** (with **he** as its subject).

This sentence is made up of two clauses each containing one finite verb and joined by the conjunction **and**. The clauses are :

1. We spoke to him in English.
2. He replied in Telugu.

Both of these clauses are independent.

They do not depend on one another. Both of them have equal importance. Both of them are principal or main clauses.

A sentence of this kind is called a **compound sentence**.



Grammar Byte

- ⦿ A sentence made up of two or more principal or main clauses is called a **Compound Sentence**.
- ⦿ The clauses of a compound sentence are called **Coordinate Clauses**.
- ⦿ The coordinate clauses of a compound sentence are joined by a **Coordinating Conjunction**.
- ⦿ If a compound sentence is made up of two clauses and if the subject of the second clause is the same as the subject of the first, then the **Second subject is often omitted**.

Example :

★ Mother cooked dinner and she served us.

★ Mother cooked dinner and served us.

(The second subject she is omitted)





A. Read the following sentences carefully and mention whether they are simple sentences or compound sentences. One has been done for you.

1. Neha went home and she took rest.
2. She cooks everyday.
3. She loves to play chess.
4. We go to school together.

Compound sentence

Complex Sentences

Now, read the following sentences:

I took an umbrella because it was raining.

There are two finite verbs in this sentence **took** (with **I** as its subject) and **was raining** (with **it** as its subject). There are thus two clauses.

1. I took an umbrella.
2. Because it was raining.

The first of these clauses makes complete sense and can stand by its own as an independent sentence. This clause is called the **main** or **principal clause**.

The second clause makes sense, but not complete sense. Besides it cannot stand on its own as an independent sentence.

To convey its full meaning, it has to be joined to the first clause. Therefore, this clause is called a **subordinate clause**.

The sentence itself is called a complete sentence.



Grammar Byte

- ◉ A sentence that is made up of principal or main clause and one or more subordinate clauses is called a **Complex Sentence**.
- ◉ A subordinate clause can be a noun clause, an adjective clause or **an Adverb Clause**.

B. Write 'S' for simple sentences, 'Cd' for compound sentences and 'Cx' for complex sentence.

1. Whenever prices goes up, customers buy less products.
2. When she was younger, she believed in ghosts.
3. Ramu is poor but an honest person.
4. Although he was rich, he was still unhappy.
5. He becomes restless and loses peace of mind.
6. Study hard, otherwise you will fail.
7. The girl entered the room and came out after 15 minutes.
8. The Earth moves round the Sun.
9. The teacher punished the student who told a lie.
10. Childhood is a bed of roses.

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Skills/Level
LISTENING & WRITING/B1





Points to Remember

- A sentence which has one finite verb is called **a Simple Sentence**.
- A sentence which is made up of two or more principal or main clauses is called **a Compound Sentence**.
- A sentence that is made up of a principal or main clause and one or more subordinate clauses is called **a Complex Sentence**.



My Activity Corner

Match the columns to make compound or complex sentences.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Cats can climb up trees. | (a) but he is a miser. |
| 2. The thief ran away. | (b) who help themselves. |
| 3. James is very rich. | (c) or you'll miss the train. |
| 4. Nobody knows. | (d) but dogs cannot climb up trees. |
| 5. Walk quickly | (e) where he went. |
| 6. God helps those | (f) when the policemen reached. |



My EeeBee Interactive Activities



Listening



Speaking



Reading



Writing



Grammar



Vocabulary

WRITE YOUR SCORE

Practice your LSRW Skills



on Communication Lab

