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Varying Sentence Structure

Writing Simple,
Compound, and Complex
Sentences

Part Two

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Complex Sentence

- ✎ It is one independent clause joined by one or more **dependent clauses**.
- ✎ Each clause has its own subject and verb but the **dependent clause** can't stand alone.
- ✎ The two clauses are joined by a **subordinating conjunction**.
- ✎ A dependent clause that **begins a sentence must be followed by comma**.

Formula

✎ Complex Sentence=

subordinating conjunction + dependent clause + comma + independent clause

Or

Independent clause + subordinating conjunction + dependent clause

Subordinating Conjunctions

after
although
as
in order that
at least
now that
wherever
while
before
even though

how
if
in as much
when
whenever
whereas
as though
because
even if
though

until
unless
as if
as long as
as much as
soon
since
so that
that

Examples of Complex Sentences

📖 Because Kayla has so much climbing experience, we asked her to lead our group.

📖 He stands at the bottom of the cliff while the climber moves up the rock.

📖 John cannot set up his computer because the wall has no outlet.



Post Assessment: Test yourself. Are these simple, compound, or complex sentences?

1. The teacher walked into the classroom, greeted the students, and took attendance.
2. Juan played football while Jane went shopping.
3. Juan played football, yet Jim went shopping.
4. Although Mexico has a better team, they lost the tournament.
5. The island was filled with many trails winding through the thick underbrush, a small lake, and dangerous wild animals.

Combine the sentences in the following paragraph for variety:
Use simple, compound, and complex sentences.

📖 Tom prefers baseball to basketball. Baseball seems more interesting to Tom. Tom feels baseball is a gentleman's sport. Baseball is more structured than basketball. Baseball requires athletes to use more skill than aggression when playing. Tom respects baseball players the most.

Possible Revisions

📖 Tom prefers baseball to basketball **because** it seems more interesting to Tom. Tom feels baseball is a gentleman's sport. Baseball is more structured than basketball, **and it** requires athletes to use more skill than aggression when playing. Tom respects baseball players the most **because of this**.