

Boost Free Lessons - Year 7 English

Lesson 3: Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Identify the sentence type: *The bell rang.*

1. A **clause** is a group of words containing a verb.
2. An **independent** clause makes sense on its own and can stand as a whole sentence.
3. This sentence has one independent clause and nothing else.
4. One independent clause on its own is a **simple** sentence.

Simple sentence

Worked Example 2

Identify the sentence type: *Although the bell rang, nobody moved.*

1. Find the clauses. There are two: *Although the bell rang* and *nobody moved*.
2. Test each one alone. *Nobody moved* makes sense, so it is independent.
3. *Although the bell rang* does not make sense alone, so it is a **dependent** clause.
4. One independent clause plus a dependent clause makes a **complex** sentence. Words like although, because, when and if start dependent clauses.

Complex sentence

Remember: A **simple** sentence has one independent clause. A **compound** sentence joins two independent clauses with and, but, or, so. A **complex** sentence has an independent clause plus a dependent one, often starting with because, although, when or if.



Question 1: Write whether each sentence is **simple**, **compound** or **complex**.

1. The dog barked.

2. The dog barked and the cat ran.

3. Because the dog barked, the cat ran.

4. She finished her homework before dinner.

5. I wanted to go, but it was already too late.

6. When the rain stopped, we walked home.

7. The train was late.

8. He missed the bus, so he walked to school.



Question 2: Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

The wind howled. Leaves scattered across the road and a gate slammed somewhere behind us. Although we shouted for help, nobody answered. Then the lights went out.

1. Find one simple sentence in the passage and write it out.

2. Find one compound sentence and name the joining word.

3. Find one complex sentence and underline the dependent clause.

4. Why do you think the writer used a very short sentence at the end?

5. Rewrite the first two sentences as one compound sentence.

6. What effect would the passage have if every sentence were the same length?



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Write a simple sentence about a storm.

2. Turn your simple sentence into a compound sentence using **but**.

3. Turn it into a complex sentence beginning with **Because**.

4. Explain the difference between an independent and a dependent clause.

5. Why do good writers vary their sentence types?





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Answers: Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences

Question 1

1. Simple
2. Compound
3. Complex
4. Simple
5. Compound
6. Complex
7. Simple
8. Compound

Question 2

1. *The wind howled.* (also acceptable: *Nobody answered.*)
2. *Leaves scattered across the road and a gate slammed somewhere behind us.* The joining word is **and**.
3. *Although we shouted for help, nobody answered.* The dependent clause is *Although we shouted for help*.
4. A short sentence after longer ones lands with more force, and it makes the silence feel sudden.
5. Model response: The wind howled and leaves scattered across the road.
6. It would sound flat and repetitive, and no sentence would stand out from any other.

Question 3

1. Model response: The thunder shook the windows.
2. Model response: The thunder shook the windows, but nobody woke up.
3. Model response: Because the thunder shook the windows, the dog hid under the bed.
4. An independent clause makes sense on its own. A dependent clause has a verb but cannot stand alone, and needs an independent clause to complete it.
5. Varying sentence types controls pace and keeps writing interesting. Short sentences create impact, and longer ones carry detail and explanation.

