

4 Sentence Types

Seeing What You Know

- A. In each blank, add a word that fits the sentence.
1. The noisy _____ woke the baby.
 2. The forest ranger _____ at the campers.
- B. In each sentence that follows, insert *and*, *but*, or *so*. Use each word once.
3. My pencil is broken, _____ my pen is out of ink.
 4. The pool is closed, _____ we can't go swimming.
 5. I have an envelope, _____ I can't find a stamp.
- C. In each sentence that follows, insert *after*, *although*, or *because*. Use each word once.
6. We called an exterminator _____ we have termites.
 7. _____ their big fight, Jessica sent her boyfriend flowers.
 8. _____ my closet is full of clothes, I have nothing to wear.

Understanding the Answers

- A. Sentence 1 could be completed with a subject such as *party*; the verb is *woke*. Sentence 2 could be completed with a verb such as *waved*; the subject is *ranger*.
Some sentences in English are **simple**, made up of one subject-verb combination expressing a complete thought. Sentences 1 and 2 are examples of simple sentences.
- B. You should have inserted *and* in sentence 3, *so* in 4, and *but* in 5.
Other sentences are **compound**, made up of two or more complete thoughts connected by a joining word such as *and*, *so*, or *but*. Sentences 3–5 are all compound sentences.
- C. You should have inserted *because* in sentence 6, *after* in 7, and *although* in 8.
Yet other sentences are **complex**, made up of one complete thought and at least one dependent thought. Dependent thoughts begin with a dependent word such as *because*, *although*, or *after*. Sentences 6–8 are all complex sentences.

The three most basic kinds of sentences in English are simple, compound, and complex sentences. This chapter explains and provides practice in all three sentence types. It also discusses two types of words you can use to combine ideas into one sentence: (1) joining words (for compound sentences) and (2) dependent words (for complex sentences).

THE SIMPLE SENTENCE

A **simple sentence** has only one subject-verb combination and expresses a complete thought.

An owl hooted.

The winning contestant could have chosen money or a car.

A simple sentence may have more than one subject:

Lemons and limes taste sharp and tangy.

(In this sentence, *lemons* and *limes* are the subjects.)

A simple sentence may have more than one verb:

The puppies nipped and nuzzled one another playfully.

(In this sentence, *nipped* and *nuzzled* are the verbs.)

A simple sentence may even have several subjects and verbs:

Every New Year's Eve, my parents, aunts, and uncles eat, dance, and welcome the new year together.

(There are three subjects in this sentence: *parents*, *aunts*, and *uncles*. There are also three verbs: *eat*, *dance*, and *welcome*.)

Practice 1

Complete the simple sentences below by filling in one or more subjects, one or more verbs, or both.

1. The _____ is unusually crowded today.
2. A thoughtless driver _____ an empty soda can onto the highway.
3. _____ and _____ make a delicious sandwich combination.
4. Mike and _____ often _____ together in the park.
5. _____ and _____ looked at old family photographs and then _____ dinner on the porch.

THE COMPOUND SENTENCE

A **compound sentence** is made up of two or more complete thoughts. For instance, look at the following simple sentences:

Supper is ready.

The guests have not arrived.

These two simple sentences can be combined to form one compound sentence:

Supper is ready, **but** the guests have not arrived.

The process of joining two ideas of equal importance is known as **coordination**. Put a comma plus a joining word (also known as a **coordinating conjunction**), such as *and*, *but*, or *so*, between the two complete thoughts. Other joining words—*or*, *for*, *nor*, and *yet*—appear on pages 73 and 212–213.

The cover is torn off this book, **and** the last few pages are missing. (**And** means *in addition*: The cover is torn off this book; *in addition*, the last few pages are missing.)

The kittens are darling, **but** we can't have another pet. (**But** means *however*: The kittens are darling; *however*, we can't have another pet.)

Kendra has to get up early tomorrow, **so** she isn't going to the party tonight. (**So** means *as a result*: Kendra has to get up early tomorrow; *as a result*, she isn't going to the party tonight.)

Practice 2

Use a comma and a suitable joining word to combine each pair of simple sentences into a compound sentence. Use each of the following joining words **once**.

and

but

so

- Rodrigo is usually cheerful.
He seems quiet and troubled today.

- All my clothes were dirty this morning.
I'm wearing my husband's shirt.

- Virginia has learned karate.
She carries a can of self-defense spray.

THE COMPLEX SENTENCE

As you have learned, a compound sentence is made up of two or more complete thoughts. Each thought could stand alone as an independent statement. A **complex sentence**, on the other hand, includes one independent statement and at least one dependent statement, which *cannot* stand alone. Look at the following example:

If it thunders, our dog hides under the bed.

The second statement in this sentence is **independent**. It can stand alone as a simple sentence: *Our dog hides under the bed*. The first statement, however, cannot stand alone. It is **dependent**—it depends on the rest of the sentence to finish the thought *If it thunders*. Dependent statements begin with dependent words (also known as subordinating conjunctions), such as *after*, *although*, *as*, *because*, *when*, and *while*. (A full list is on page 60.) A dependent statement also includes a subject and a verb. (The subject of the dependent statement above is *it*; the verb is *thunders*.)

Punctuation note Put a comma at the end of a dependent statement that begins a sentence, as in the example above.

Practice 3

Combine each pair of simple sentences into a complex sentence. To change a simple sentence into a dependent statement, add a dependent word to it, as shown in the example. Choose a suitable dependent word from the following:

after

although

as

Use each word **once**. Put a comma after a dependent statement that starts a sentence.

Example We ate the pork chops with our hands.
We were out of clean silverware.

We ate the pork chops with our hands because we were out of clean silverware.

- The familiar “Wedding March” played.
The bride and her father walked down the aisle.

- Jeff broke out in red blotches.
He walked through a bank of poison ivy.

- Mei Lin scrubbed for an hour.
She could not get the crayon marks off the wall.

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____
 Score: (Number right) _____ × 20 = _____ %

■ Sentence Types: Test 1

Part A Use a comma and a suitable joining word to combine the following pairs of simple sentences into compound sentences. Choose from *and*, *but*, and *so*.

1. Alvin could not stop yawning.
 He decided to take a nap until dinnertime.

2. My niece is an excellent basketball player.
 She does not plan to try out for the team.

Part B Use a suitable dependent word to combine the following pairs of simple sentences into complex sentences. Choose from *although*, *because*, and *when*. Use each word **once**. Place a comma after a dependent statement when it starts a sentence.

3. Sandra never rides the Ferris wheel.
 She is afraid of heights.

4. I get home after work.
 I'll give you a call.

5. I had promised never to tell the secret.
 I couldn't resist telling my wife.

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____
Score: (Number right) _____ × 20 = _____ %

■ Sentence Types: Test 2

Part A Use a comma and a suitable joining word to combine the following pairs of simple sentences into compound sentences. Choose from *and*, *but*, and *so*.

1. The bookstore is out of history textbooks.
I will have to borrow my roommate's book.

2. The workers dripped paint on the carpet.
They stomped through the flower bed.

Part B Use a suitable dependent word to combine the following pairs of simple sentences into complex sentences. Choose from *although*, *because*, and *when*. Use each word **once**. Place a comma after a dependent statement when it starts a sentence.

3. Strawberries become ripe.
They must be picked quickly.

4. Flora has six brothers and sisters.
She never talks about her family.

5. I was nervous all morning.
I had to get a tooth extracted in the afternoon.

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____
Score: (Number right) _____ × 20 = _____ %

■ Sentence Types: Test 3

Combine each group of simple sentences into compound sentences, complex sentences, or both. Write two sentences for item 1 and three sentences for item 2. Use any of the following joining words and dependent words.

- Joining words: **and** **but** **so**
- Dependent words: **after** **although** **because** **when**

Here are two hints about commas: (1) Use a comma between two thoughts joined by *and*, *but*, or *so*. (2) Place a comma after a dependent statement when it starts a sentence.

1. My company is very conservative.
I have to wear a suit every day.
I get home from work.
I immediately slip into a sweatshirt and jeans.

2. Grandpa never graduated from high school.
He strongly believes in education.
He was the first one to take me to a library.
He has always encouraged me to study hard.
Grandpa retired from his job at the factory.
He began studying to get a high-school diploma.

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____
 Score: (Number right) _____ $\times 20 =$ _____ %

■ Sentence Types: Test 4

Combine each group of simple sentences into compound and/or complex sentences. Write two sentences for item 1 and three sentences for item 2. Use any of the following joining words and dependent words.

Joining words: **and** **but** **so**
Dependent words: **after** **although** **because** **when**

Here are two hints about commas: (1) Use a comma between two thoughts joined by *and*, *but*, or *so*. (2) Place a comma after a dependent statement when it starts a sentence.

- Robert Louis Stevenson wrote about Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.
 He heard about a man named William Brodie.
 Brodie was a respected businessman during the day.
 At night he led a gang of robbers.

- You want to save money in the supermarket.
 You should learn where the bargains are and are not.
 Managers want to sell high-cost items like imported mustard.
 They place those items on eye-level shelves.
 Shoppers are less likely to look on lower shelves.
 Managers put less profitable items there.

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____
 Score: (Number right) _____ $\times 20 =$ _____ %

■ Sentence Types: Test 5

Combine the five pairs of italicized simple sentences into compound or complex sentences. Write the new sentences on the lines provided, adding commas as needed. Use any of the following joining words and dependent words. (Remember that there is more than one way of revising these sentences.)

Joining words: **and** **but** **so**
Dependent words: **although** **as** **because** **while**

Here are two hints about commas: (1) Use a comma between two thoughts joined by *and*, *but*, or *so*. (2) Place a comma after a dependent statement when it starts a sentence.

Jay's fishing trip with his buddies was not exactly a success. *They drove to the cabin in the mountains. They had a flat tire.* _____

Once they arrived at the cabin, they found the last renters had left the place in terrible condition. *The cabin was full of dirty dishes, empty food containers, food scraps, and newspapers. Jay and his friends had to spend a long time cleaning.*

They did manage to catch a few trout before suppertime. Bad luck soon struck again. _____

Jay was frying fish over the campfire. His flannel shirt burst into flames.

Thinking quickly, Jay jumped into the nearby lake and put the fire out. The guys went to bed early after their unlucky first day. *"Surely tomorrow will be better," thought Jay, climbing into his bunk. He was wrong.* _____

As Jay ran down the stairs the next morning, a step broke under his weight. He spent the rest of the day in a nearby emergency room, having a cast put on his broken ankle.

Name _____ Section _____ Date _____
 Score: (Number right) _____ × 20 = _____ %

■ Sentence Types: Test 6

Combine the five pairs of italicized simple sentences into compound or complex sentences. Write the new sentences on the lines provided, adding commas as needed. Use any of the following joining words and dependent words. (Remember that there is more than one way of revising these sentences.)

Joining words: **and** **but** **so**
Dependent words: **although** **as** **because** **before**

Each year for four days in early August, hundreds of thousands of people shop at the world's longest yard sale. *The sale runs from northern Ohio to Alabama. It includes parts of five states.* _____

The sale is more than 600 miles long. It runs mostly along US Highway 127.

The sale began more than twenty years ago to encourage people to exit the highways and explore rural areas in the United States. All sorts of items can be found at the sale. *Residents fill their yards with unwanted items. Professional vendors, such as antiques dealers, also offer merchandise to the shoppers.* _____

The emphasis is on the yard sale. The route also includes beautiful scenery, national parks, museums, and entertainment. _____

Visitors to the yard sale could not possibly see everything in just four days. They might want to drive a different stretch of the route each year. _____

