

# Complex and Compound Sentences



# Learning Objective

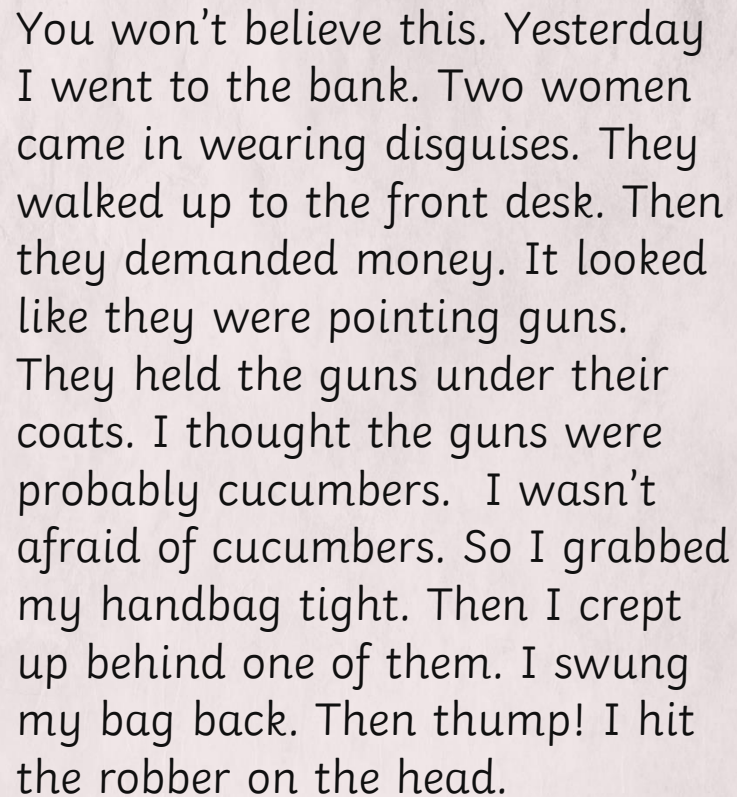
To use a variety of sentences when writing.

## Success Criteria

- To recognise compound and complex sentences.
- To use compound and complex sentences accurately in own writing.

# What's Wrong?

Read this text and say what is wrong with it.



You won't believe this. Yesterday I went to the bank. Two women came in wearing disguises. They walked up to the front desk. Then they demanded money. It looked like they were pointing guns. They held the guns under their coats. I thought the guns were probably cucumbers. I wasn't afraid of cucumbers. So I grabbed my handbag tight. Then I crept up behind one of them. I swung my bag back. Then thump! I hit the robber on the head.

# Simple Sentences

If we only write in simple sentences, no matter how exciting the story is, it is boring to read.

A simple sentence only contains one idea, it is normally short and easy to understand.

## Example:

- John ran.
- Merinda hit out at Lorelle.
- I fell down the massive hole.



# How Do We Fix It?

There are two types of sentence which will make your writing more likely to interest your reader.

- Compound sentences
- Complex sentences



# Compound Sentences

A compound sentence simply takes two simple sentences and joins them together using joining words called conjunctions.

Examples of these are: **and**, **but**, or **yet**.

For example:

I passed your house today. I noticed the roof had blown off.

simple sentence

simple sentence

Becomes:

I passed your house today **and** I noticed the roof had blown off.

compound sentence

# Your Turn

Take these simple sentences and make them into compound sentences.

1. Maggie had completed her run. She was covered in mud.
2. The plant was dying. It was covered in greenfly.
3. The wind nearly blew Aaron away. He decided to shelter in a nearby church.
4. The rabbit hopped into the road. The car swerved into a bush.

Conjunctions			
for	and	but	yet
so	nor	or	

An easy way to remember the conjunctions for compound sentences is:

**FANBOYS**

# Complex Sentences

Complex sentences have two parts to them like compound sentences.

However, in complex sentences, one part of the sentence is more important than the other.

The **main clause** is the part which will make sense on its own.

This is the important part of the sentence.

The **subordinate clause** is the part which doesn't make sense on its own.

It is not as important as it just gives us some extra information.



# Example

Mary thought that she could run to the bus stop despite her high heels.

**Main clause:** Mary thought that she could run to the bus stop

**Subordinate clause:** despite her high heels



# Your Turn

Look at these complex sentences and as a pair, pick out the main clause (would make sense on its own) and the subordinate clause (less important one).

1. Michael hid the golden key under his bed so that he could keep it a secret.
2. After she had washed her hair, Petunia applied thick layers of makeup.
3. Trixie the cat was looking forward to a night out provided she found a way to get past the neighbour's dog.
4. Whenever he saw that coat, he fondly remembered his holiday in Norway.
5. Hanif, before he'd even opened the door, knew that something was wrong.



# Commas and Complex Sentences

You should have noticed that the subordinate clause can go at the beginning or end of the sentence. It can also be in the middle of a sentence and this is sometimes called an embedded clause.

Main clause is in pink. Subordinate clause is in blue.

Even when it was snowing, Flossy wanted to go for a walk.

Flossy wanted to go for a walk even when it was snowing.

Flossy, even when it was snowing, wanted to go for a walk.

What do you notice about the commas when the subordinate clause changes position?



# Try It Out

Lets work together to re-write the passage so that it contains both compound and complex sentences.

You won't believe this. Yesterday I went to the bank. Two women came in wearing disguises. They walked up to the front desk. Then they demanded money. It looked like they were pointing guns. They held the guns under their coats. I thought the guns were probably cucumbers. I wasn't afraid of cucumbers. So I grabbed my handbag tight. Then I crept up behind one of them. I swung my bag back. Then thump! I hit the robber on the head.



# Let's Check!

Look at these sentences and underline and decide whether they are simple, compound or complex. Look out for FANBOYS conjunctions, and a main and subordinate clause!

WALT: Identify simple, compound and complex sentences

- She doesn't drink milk, nor does she eat butter.
- The lady quickly did the grocery shopping.
- Although the test was difficult, she gave it her best.
- I like jam, however I prefer marmalade.
- The man was in a hurry, yet he stopped to look at himself in the mirror.
- She combed her hair with care.
- The child approached the teacher with caution, for he had forgotten his homework.



# Let's Check!

Look at these sentences and underline and decide whether they are simple, compound or complex. Look out for FANBOYS conjunctions, and a main and subordinate clause!

## SIMPLE:

- She doesn't drink milk, nor does she eat butter.
- The lady quickly did the grocery shopping.
- Although the test was difficult, she gave it her best.
- I like jam, however I prefer marmalade.
- The man was in a hurry, yet he stopped to look at himself in the mirror.
- **She combed her hair with care.**
- The child approached the teacher with caution, for he had forgotten his homework.



# Let's Check!

Look at these sentences and underline and decide whether they are simple, compound or complex. Look out for FANBOYS conjunctions, and a main and subordinate clause!

## COMPOUND:

- She doesn't drink milk, nor does she eat butter.
- The lady quickly did the grocery shopping.
- Although the test was difficult, she gave it her best.
- I like jam, however I prefer marmalade.
- The man was in a hurry, yet he stopped to look at himself in the mirror.
- She combed her hair with care.
- The child approached the teacher with caution, for he had forgotten his homework.



# Let's Check!

Look at these sentences and decide whether they are simple, compound or complex. Look out for FANBOYS conjunctions, and a main and subordinate clause! Rule your page into 3 sections and sort the sentences.

## COMPLEX:

- She doesn't drink milk, nor does she eat butter.
- The lady quickly did the grocery shopping.
- Although the test was difficult, she gave it her best.
- I like jam, however I prefer marmalade.
- The man was in a hurry, yet he stopped to look at himself in the mirror.
- She combed her hair with care.
- The child approached the teacher with caution, for he had forgotten his homework.





# Explain

Write an explanation sheet in your pair or three to explain to the class about the two sentence types you learned about today.

Make sure you explain what these key words mean:

- Compound sentence
- Conjunctions
- Complex sentence
- Main clause
- Subordinate clause

Remember: **Compound** sentences will be joined with a FANBOYS conjunction!

**Complex** sentences have one (main) clause that would make sense on its own, and one less important one (the subordinate clause).





twinkl