

Today's Topic

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# 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.
- To correctly punctuate a range of sentences.

# 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.

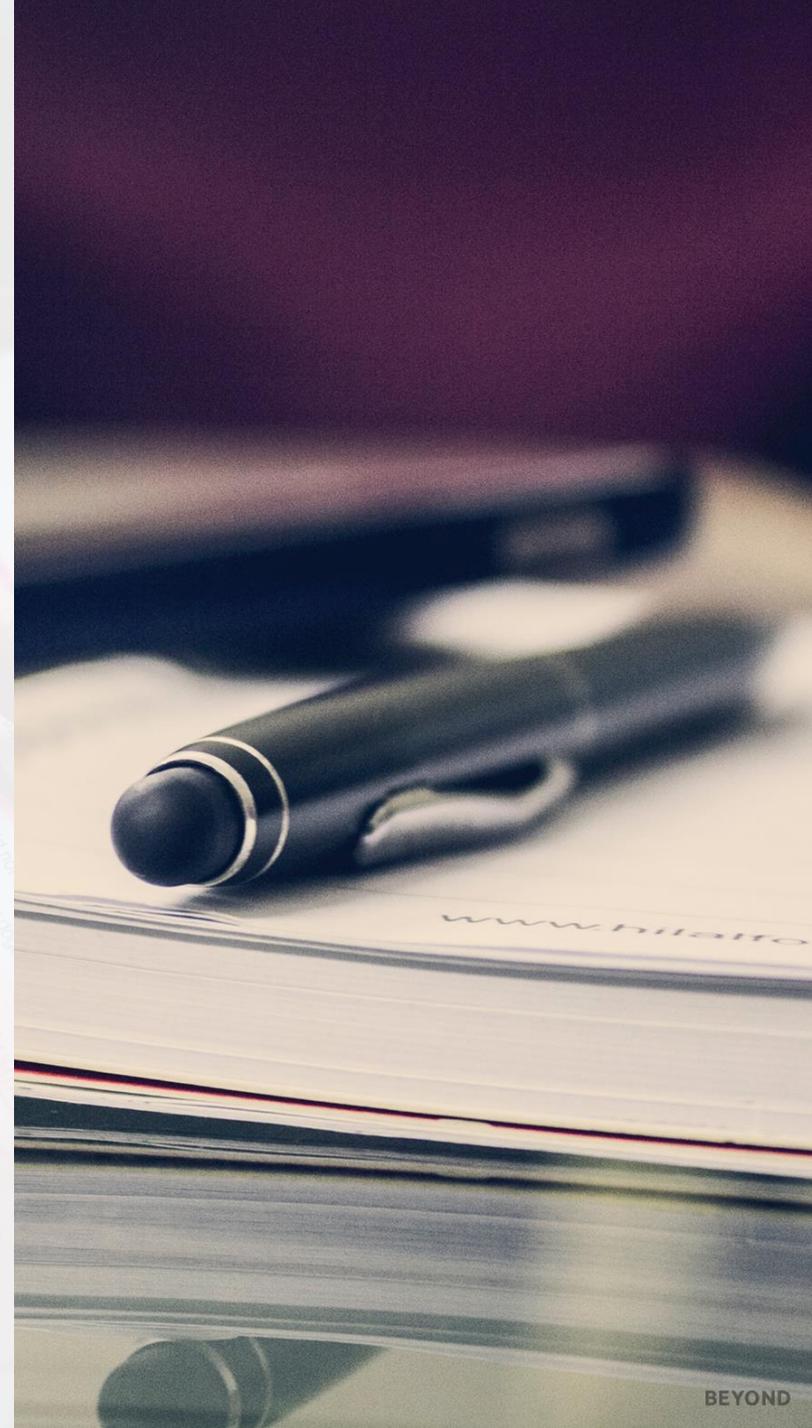
# Simple Sentences

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?

You can use different sentence structures to make your writing sound more interesting and be more engaging.

## Compound sentences and 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**.

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**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	

# 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 underline and label the main clause and the subordinate clause.**

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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?

# Commas and Complex Sentences

When the subordinate clause comes at the beginning of a sentence, you use a comma after it.

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



When the subordinate clause comes in the middle of a sentence, you use a comma at either side of it.

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



When the subordinate clause comes at the end of the sentence, there is usually no comma.

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

# Your Turn

**Put a comma into these sentences (if there needs to be one!)**

1. No matter how much he tried the alien could not fit his horned foot into the trainers.
2. Cindy had felt lonely since the dog ran away.
3. While her parents were away Lorraine decided to have a party.
4. Marie found another dirty footprint wherever she went in the house.
5. Santa now that he'd got his breath back realised he was too fat for chimneys.
6. The television despite being only a week old exploded.
7. Chip burst out laughing as soon as they had gone.
8. The vase a beautiful delicate pink was far too expensive.

# Try It Out

Here is the passage you read at the beginning of the lesson.

**Re-write it 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.*



