

Name _____

Compound and Complex Sentences

A **simple sentence** expresses a complete thought. It has a subject and a predicate.

The Negro League formed in 1920.

A **compound sentence** contains two simple sentences joined by a comma and a conjunction such as *and*, *but*, or *or*.

The athletes played several games a day, and they traveled on a bus.

A **complex sentence** contains an independent clause, which can stand alone, and a dependent clause, which cannot stand alone. The clauses are joined by a word such as *if*, *when*, *because*, *until*, *before*, *after*, or *since*. In the following sentence, the independent clause is underlined once; the dependent clause is underlined twice.

Many years would pass before the major leagues were integrated.

Directions Join each pair of simple sentences with *and*, *but*, or *or*. Write the compound sentence on the lines. Change punctuation and capital letters as necessary.

1. My sister can hit the ball hard. She pitches well too.

2. The game should have started at one o'clock. A thunderstorm began at 12:45.

3. The teams will make up the game next Sunday. They will wait until the end of the season.

Directions Write *compound* after each compound sentence. Write *complex* after each complex sentence. Underline the word that joins the two clauses in each sentence.

4. All players are important to a team, but the pitcher may be most important. _____
5. If a pitcher strikes out batters, the opposing team cannot score. _____
6. Outfielders must catch the ball when the batter hits a pop fly. _____
7. The game was tied, and no one left the bleachers. _____
8. The pitcher struck out two batters, but the third batter hit a home run. _____



Home Activity Your child learned about compound and complex sentences. Have your child write a paragraph about a baseball game, using at least one compound sentence and one complex sentence.

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Compound and Complex Sentences

Directions Add a clause from the box to complete each sentence. Write *compound* or *complex* to tell what kind of sentence each one is.

He was the first African American player in the white major leagues
 and a hero's skin color does not matter to them
 the jeers soon turned to cheers
 Since Jackie Robinson was the only African American on the field
 and in 1962 he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame

1. Baseball fans love the stars of the game, _____
 _____.
2. _____
 _____, he endured anger and jeers at first. _____
3. Because he showed great skill and grace, _____
 _____.
4. The public admired Robinson, _____
 _____.
5. _____
 _____, but he soon was not the only one. _____

Directions Write several sentences about your favorite sports hero or performer. Use at least one compound sentence and one complex sentence. Use commas and conjunctions correctly.



Home Activity Your child learned how to use compound and complex sentences in writing. Ask your child to read you a story and to point out examples of compound and complex sentences.

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Compound and Complex Sentences

Directions Mark the letter of the phrase that correctly identifies each underlined word, group of words, or sentence.

- Every day Ted and I play catch, or we join our friends in a game.
 A dependent clause
 B independent clause
 C compound sentence
 D complex sentence
- We love the game, but we aren't the best players.
 A conjunction
 B independent clause
 C dependent clause
 D complex sentence
- If you practice every day, you will do better.
 A dependent clause
 B independent clause
 C compound sentence
 D complex sentence
- A game is more fun when the crowd cheers you on.
 A dependent clause
 B independent clause
 C compound sentence
 D complex sentence
- Although our team played well, we still lost.
 A dependent clause
 B independent clause
 C compound sentence
 D complex sentence
- Rub this oil into your glove, and you will catch balls more easily.
 A dependent clause
 B independent clause
 C compound sentence
 D complex sentence
- Before you play a big game, you should relax.
 A conjunction
 B dependent clause
 C independent clause
 D complex sentence
- Aleesha plays third base, or she is catcher.
 A conjunction
 B independent clause
 C compound sentence
 D complex sentence
- We keep score, but we really play just for fun.
 A dependent clause
 B independent clause
 C compound sentence
 D complex sentence
- Because we have fun, we don't mind an occasional loss.
 A dependent clause
 B independent clause
 C compound sentence
 D complex sentence



Home Activity Your child prepared for taking tests on compound and complex sentences. Have your child read a sports article in the newspaper and identify compound sentences and complex sentences.

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Compound and Complex Sentences

Directions Join each pair of simple sentences to form a compound sentence. Use the conjunction that makes sense (*and*, *but*, or *or*). Put a comma before the conjunction. Write the compound sentence on the lines.

1. Julia loves sports.
She cannot decide which one to try first.

2. She could play softball.
She could join a soccer team.

3. Her older brother plays on a traveling soccer team.
Her mom is an umpire for the softball league.

4. Marcus runs like the wind.
He is quite strong.

Directions Write *compound* after each compound sentence and underline the conjunction. Write *complex* after each complex sentence and underline the dependent clause.

5. His name was George Herman Ruth, but everyone called him Babe. _____
6. He was a left-handed pitcher when he began his career in 1914. _____
7. He pitched 163 games, and he won 92 of them. _____
8. If you can believe it, he was greatest of all at hitting home runs. _____



Home Activity Your child reviewed compound and complex sentences. Ask your child to explain how a game is played, using some compound and complex sentences.