

Sentence Structures

The Complex Sentence

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is for you to gain experience and knowledge of various sentence structures.

Method: You will gain this experience by reviewing both simple and compound sentence structures and by adding the complex sentence structure to your writing.

Details: This assignment is to be completed by the end of class for 15-points.

“To develop a strong style, students should recognize in writing, learn and then practice their own writing (along with attendant punctuation rules) the following structures:”

The sentence types: simple, compound, **complex**, compound complex

Review:

A simple sentence is one independent clause:

“And thou unfit for any place but hell” (I.II.111).

“Your eyes do menace me” (I.IV.173).

A compound sentence is two independent clauses:

Three punctuation choices:

1. **Comma plus (FANBOYS):**

“I’ll have her, but I will not keep her long” (I.II. 233).

2. **Semi-colon:**

“Thou hadst but power over his mortal body; his soul thou canst not have” (I.II.47-48)

3. **Semi-colon plus conjunctive adverb followed by a comma:**

Shakespeare does not often use this pattern in *Richard III*; therefore, I had to write my own sentence.

The Complex Sentence:

One dependent (subordinate), one independent (main) clause:

There are a variety of structures for the complex sentence; this year, however, we will focus on the following two structures:

Subordinating conjunction and dependent clause, independent clause:

“**If force is needed**, it should be used at the beginning so as to avoid frequent repetition” (Chapter VIII Summary, *The Prince*).

“**If you join the weaker power**, you have the most favorable results” (Chapter XXI Summary, *The Prince*).

Independent clause subordinating conjunction dependent clause:

“The victor will seek to oppress you **because you did not aid him**” (Chapter XXI Summary, *The Prince*).

“No sooner were they seated **than soldiers issued from secret places and slaughtered Giovanni and the rest**” (Chapter VIII, *The Prince*).

The following is a list of the most common **subordinating conjunctions**:

After	Even if	Provided (that)	Unless
Although	Even though	Since	Until
As	How	So that	When
As if	If	Than	Whenever
As long as	In order that	That	Where
Because	Lest	Though	Wherever
Before	Now that	Till (or 'til)	While

Instructions: In the sentences below, underline the independent clause, circle the subordinating conjunction, and put a wavy line over the entire subordinate clause.

1. Because Mrs. Lopez returned to work, school lunch tasted good again.
2. We found a treasure chest in the basement of our house that was full of old costumes.
3. I want my sister to proofread my report before I give it to Ms. Belmont.
4. Although I love to travel, I am afraid to fly.
5. We had to leave the golf course when the storm finally started.

Instructions: Identify each of the following sentences as a simple, compound, or complex sentence.

1. The solar wind contains charged particles that make the air glow when they blast into the Earth's atmosphere. _____
2. The aurora borealis (or northern lights) and the aurora australis (southern lights) can take many different forms. _____
3. Sometimes simple lines appear across the sky, or pillars form at different points in the sky. _____
4. Whatever colors they display or form they take, the lights of the aurora are always a sight to behold.
5. Lucky observers see many exotic forms.

Instructions: Write six complex sentences in the space below; be sure to use three of each structure that we have discussed today.