
Simple sentence: A Simple sentence is also called an independent clause. It contains a Subject and a Verb, and it expresses a complete thought.

E.g.

- a) Some students like to study in the morning.
- b) Mother ordered a birthday cake.

Compound sentence: A compound sentence consists of two main clauses of equal importance, joined together with a conjunction.

e.g.

- a) I like coffee and she likes tea.
- b) I can go to college or study at home.

Complex sentence: A complex sentence consists of an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

e.g.

- a) After the storm hit the town, trees lay broken in the streets.
- b) I am glad to know that he had succeeded.

Conversion of simple sentence into complex sentences

a) By expanding a word or a phrase into *a noun clause*

- 1. Simple : I was glad to know **of his success**.
Complex : I was glad to know **that he had succeeded**.
- 2. Simple : He pleaded **ignorance** of the law.
Complex : He pleaded **that he was ignorant** of the law.
- 3. Simple : The report **of his failure** has surprised us all.
Complex : The report **that he has failed** has surprised us all.

b) By expanding a word or a phrase into *an adjective clause*

- 1. Simple : A **dead** man tells no tales.
Complex : A man **who is dead** tells no tales.
- 2. Simple : The boy **with the blue shirt** is our Captain.
Complex : The boy **who is wearing blue shirt** is our Captain.

3. Simple : I still remember the joys **of my childhood**.
Complex : I still remember the joys which I experienced in my childhood.

c) By expanding a word or a phrase into *an adverb clause*

1. Simple : He felt sorry **on finding out his mistake**. (Time)
Complex : He felt sorry **when he found out his mistake**.
2. Simple : **Being rich**, he can afford this expensive treatment. (Cause/ reason)
Complex : **As he is rich**, he can afford this expensive treatment.
3. Simple : He is too simple minded **to see through the game**. (Result/ consequence)
Complex : He is so simple minded **that he can not see through the game**.
4. Simple : He is working day and night **to improve his prospects**. (Purpose)
Complex : He is working day and night **so that he may improve his prospects**.

Conversion of complex sentences into simple sentences

a) By converting a noun clause into *a word or a phrase*

1. Complex : I am responsible for **what I do**.
Simple : I am responsible **for my actions**.
2. Complex : He wanted to know **why he had been dismissed**.
Simple : He wanted to know **the reason for his dismissal**.

b) By converting an adjective clause into a word or a phrase

1. Complex : All **that glitters** is not gold.
Simple : All **glittering things** are not gold.
2. Complex : He can not forget the losses **that he has suffered**.
Simple : He can not forget the losses **suffered by him**.

c) By converting an adverb clause into a word or a phrase

1. Complex : You may do it **when you please**.
Simple : You may do it **at your pleasure**.
2. Complex : **Because he was ill**, he stayed at home.
Simple : He stayed at home **on account of his illness**.

Conversion of Simple sentences into Compound sentences

a) By using *Cumulative* Conjunctions like, *and, not only...but also, etc.*

1. Simple : Taking off his clothes, he jumped into the river.
Compound : He took off his clothes **and** jumped into the river.
2. Simple : In addition to useful advice, he gave me financial help.
Compound : He gave me **not only** a useful advice **but also** a financial help.

b) By using *Adversative* Conjunctions like, *but, still, yet, etc.*

1. Simple : In spite of very bad weather, they succeeded in conquering Mt. Everest.
Compound : The weather was very bad, **still** they succeeded in conquering Mt. Everest.
2. Simple : He had every qualification for the post except sincerity.
Compound : He had every qualification for the post, **but** he was not sincere.

c) By using *Alternative* Conjunctions like, *or, otherwise, else, etc.*

1. Simple : You must take rich diet to gain weight.
Compound : You must take rich diet, **or** you will not gain weight.
2. Simple : Take another step at the peril of your life.
Compound : Don't take another step, **else** your life will be at the peril.

Conversion of Compound sentences into simple sentences

a) By using *Prepositional phrase*

1. Compound : He is a Russian by birth, but he speaks Hindi like his mother tongue.
Simple : **In spite of being a Russian** by birth, He speaks Hindi like his mother tongue.
2. Compound : This book is not beautifully printed, but is free from mistakes also.
Simple : **Besides being beautifully printed**, this book is free from mistakes.

b) By using *Participle*

1. Compound : The umpire found the light poor and decided to call off the day's play.
Simple : **Finding the light poor**, the umpire decided to call off the day's play.

c) By using *Infinitive*

1. Compound : You must observe austerity, or you will not become morally strong.
Simple : You must observe austerity **to become** morally strong.

Conversion of Compound sentences into complex sentences

a) Compound sentences with Cumulative conjunctions, *and*

1. Compound : He wanted to win the prize and worked hard.
Complex : He worked hard **so that he might** win the prize.

b) Compound sentences with Adversative conjunctions like *but, still, however, nevertheless etc.*

1. Compound : Attend your classes regularly, *or* you will fall short of attendance.
Complex : *If* you do *not* attend your classes regularly, you will fall short of attendance.

c) Compound sentences with Alternative conjunctions like *or, otherwise, else, therefore either...or etc.*

1. Compound : I can not afford to buy many books, *therefore* I usually study in the library.
Complex : **Since** I can not afford to buy many books, I usually study in the library.

Conversion of Complex sentences into Compound sentences

a) By using Cumulative conjunctions, *and*

1. Complex : **Everybody knows that** man is mortal.
Compound : Man is mortal **and** this fact everybody knows.
2. Complex : **If** I am right, I should be supported.
Compound : I may be right and in that case I should be supported.

b) By using Adversative conjunctions like *but, still, however, nevertheless etc.*

1. Complex : **Although** they lost the match, they were not disgraced.
Compound : They lost the match, **but** they were not disgraced.

c) By using Alternative conjunctions like *or, otherwise, else, either...or etc.*

1. Complex : **If** you **don't** surrender your arms immediately, you will be shot dead.
Compound : Surrender your arms immediately, **or** you will be shot dead.

Exercise 1. Identify the following sentences, whether Simple, Compound or Complex Sentence

1. All the flights have been cancelled owing to the bad weather.

Ans. Simple sentence

2. He had many faults, but he was a good man at heart.

Ans. Compound sentence

3. It has been ages since I saw you.

Ans. Complex sentence

4. The fact that he is silent proves his guilt.

Ans. Simple sentence

5. He finished his work and put away his books.

Ans. Compound sentence

SENTENCES FOR PRACTICE

Exercise 2. Identify the following sentences, whether Simple, Compound or Complex Sentence

1. Unless he completes the work, he will be punished.
2. He could not win a scholarship due to his carelessness.
3. You must work hard or you will not pass.
4. The fruits in the glass bowl are for the guests.
5. The flowers in the vase have wilted because of the heat.
6. All the flights have been cancelled owing to the bad weather.
7. The fruits in the glass bowl are for the guests.
8. It has been ages since I saw you.
9. The flowers in the vase have wilted because of the heat.
10. When the sun had risen, we resumed our journey.

Exercise 3. Change into Simple sentences

1. You must work hard or you will not pass the exam.

Ans. You must work hard to pass the exam.

2. The doctor admitted that he was helpless.

Ans. The doctor admitted his helplessness.

3. No one likes a man who tells lies.

Ans. No one likes a liar.

4. I shall look after her as she stays here.

Ans. I shall look after her during her stay here.

5. The more you earn, the more you should save.

Ans. Savings should be in proportion to earnings.

SENTENCES FOR PRACTICE

Exercise 4. Change into Simple sentences

1. As the decision has already been taken, it is no point discussing the issues.
2. Most of the poems that Kalidas wrote have been preserved.
3. He has treated me most unjustly, still I have not grumbled.
4. The judge found him guilty and sentenced him to three years' rigorous imprisonment.
5. The spring was late to arrive and the garden was still wearing a deserted look.
6. He cried as loudly as he could.

Exercise 5. Change into Compound sentences

1. He could not win a scholarship due to his carelessness.

Ans. He was careless, so he could not win a scholarship.

2. If you do not leave this room, I will compel you to do so.

Ans. Leave this room, or I will compel you to do so.

3. Feeling satisfied with his work, the Principal offered a permanent job.

Ans. The Principal felt satisfied with his work and offered him a permanent job.

4. The sun having risen, the fog disappeared.

Ans. The sun rose and the fog disappeared.

5. You must run very fast to win the race.

Ans. You must run very fast, or you will not win the race.

SENTENCES FOR PRACTICE

Exercise 6. Change into Compound sentences

1. I am sure that you have done the mischief.
2. When the document was signed, they were all satisfied.
3. He has missed the opportunity was given.
4. I bought the newspaper that I might read the latest news.
5. In spite of being short of funds, we supplied the goods to them.
6. The boy can rest at home. The boy can go to school.
7. Isha called her uncle to ask him for an address.
8. Having finished work for the day, we left the office.
9. Having finished work for the day, we left the office.

Exercise 7. Change into Complex sentences

1. India expects everyone to do his duty.

Ans. India expects that everyone should do his duty.

2. He rested in a chair near the wall.

Ans. He rested in a chair which was lying near the wall.

3. This industry is not likely to flourish.

Ans. It is not like that this industry will flourish.

4. Going through the book, he came upon a fine story.

Ans. As he was going through the book, he came upon a fine story.

5. He entered the place too noiselessly to be heard.

Ans. He entered the place so noiselessly that he could not be heard.

SENTENCES FOR PRACTICE

Exercise 8. Change into Complex sentences

1. These books were stolen in my absence.

2. The doctor did his best for the patient, but he could not save him.

3. I press the call bell and a nurse immediately comes in.

4. Nobody is going to hurt you, so don't be afraid.

5. Entrust me with the work and it will be done efficiently.

6. You must return home before sunset.

7. The squirrels hid the nuts at the usual place.

8. It is my opinion. The room needs to be painted.

Exercise 9. Combine each of the following simple sentences into Compound sentences.

1. The clothes were put out in the morning. The clothes are not dry.

Ans. The clothes were put out in the morning, still they are not dry.

2. Walking down the road, Ravi looked at the beautiful flowers in the garden.

Ans. Ravi walked down the road and looked at the beautiful flowers in the garden.

3. Having finished work for the day, we left the office.

Ans. We finished work for the day and left the office.

SENTENCES FOR PRACTICE

Exercise 10. Combine each of the following simple sentences into Compound sentences.

1. Kripa will stay in a hotel. Kripa will stay with friends in the city.

2. I rang the bell. Nobody came to the door.
3. Kiran and Rani read the book. They did not like it
4. She works in the office. She manages her household.
5. He does not tell a lie. He does not tolerate a lie.
6. In spite of being new to the place, Priya got everybody to support her cause.
7. It was not dark even at seven in the evening.

Exercise 11. Combine each of the following simple sentences into Complex sentences.

1. Amol took me out to lunch. I went to see Amol.

Ans. Amol took me out to lunch when I went to see him.

2. The guavas are not sweet. The guavas are large.

Ans. Though the guavas are large, they are not sweet.

3. You can not reach the fan. Stand on the stool.

Ans. Stand on the stool because you can not reach the fan.

SENTENCES FOR PRACTICE

Exercise 12. Combine each of the following simple sentences into Complex sentences.

1. It is my opinion. The room needs to be painted.
2. The weather will improve. We shall go for a picnic.
3. Your progress is quite satisfactory. I am happy.
4. He went to various places. He was welcomed everywhere.
5. I could not get my seat reserved. I managed a comfortable journey.

Resources:

1. Pal, Rajendra and Suri, Prem Lata, English Grammar and Composition (Sultan Chand and Sons Educational Publishers, New Delhi) reprint 2008.
2. P.C. Wren and H. Martin, High school English Grammar and Composition (Blackie ELT Books, New Delhi) reprint 2014.
3. Shinde, Balasaheb, Complete English Grammar (Anand Publication, Aurangabad) 2017.