

Sentences : Simple, Compound, Complex

▼ Simple Sentence

A Simple Sentence is the one which has only one Subject and one Finite Verb.

Read the following sentence carefully:

The hunter killed a lion.

The sentence contains only one Subject, Hunter and one Finite Verb, killed. Such a sentence, which has only one Subject and one Finite Verb is called a Simple Sentence.

Compound Sentence

A Compound Sentence is one that is made up of two or more Co-ordinate Clauses.

Read the following sentences carefully:

- 1. The way was long and the night was dark.
- 2. He went to the window and looked out but saw nobody.

The first sentence consists of two parts:

- (i) The way was long.
- (ii) The night was dark.

These two parts are joined together by the Co-ordinating Conjunction 'and'.

Each part is a Clause, because each part has a Subject and a Predicate of its own, and each part is a sentence which is a part of a larger sentence.

We further notice that each Clause makes good sense by itself, and hence can stand alone as a complete sentence. Each Clause is, therefore, independent of the other, or of the same order or rank, Such a clause is called a Co-ordinate Clause.

Such a sentence as the first, which is made up of clauses of equal rank, is called a Compound Sentence.

The second sentence is also a Compound Sentence. It is made up of three clauses of equal rank viz:

- (i) He went to the window.
- (ii) (He) looked out.
- (iii) (He) saw nobody.

Remember

❖ The term Double is now used for a sentence that is made up of two Co-ordinate Clause. The term Multiple is used for a sentence consisting of more than two Co-ordinate Clauses.

💌 Complex Sentence

A Complex Sentence is one that is made up of one Principal Clause and one or more Subordinate Clauses.

Read the following sentence carefully:

I do not know where he lives.

This sentence consists of two parts:

(i) I do not know.

(ii) Where he lives.

Each part has a Subject and a Predicate of its own and forms part of a larger sentence. Each part is, therefore, a Clause.

We further notice that the Clause, I do not know, makes good sense by itself, and can, therefore, stand alone as a complete sentence. Such a Clause is called the Principal or Main Clause.

But the Clause, where he lives, does not make good sense by itself and cannot stand alone.

It is dependent upon the Principal Clause, 'I do not know' for its full meaning. It is, therefore, called a Dependent or Subordinate Clause.

Such a sentence, which is made up of one Principal Clause and one or more Subordinate Clauses, is called a Complex Sentence.

Time To Do

A. Say which of the following sentences are Compound, and which are Complex. Also underline the Clause in each case :

- 1. I think he is absent today.
- 2. When the cat is away the mice will play.
- 3. Night came on and rain fell heavily and we all got very wet.
- 4. When I went to the bazaar this morning, I met my old friend whom I had not seen for three years.
- 5. I know the man who said that the earth is flat.
- 6. He goes to school but his sister stays at home.
- 7. I have no sympathy for a man who is not a hero in the battle of life.
- 8. He does not know who has stolen your book.
- 9. Ashok passed but Raman failed.
- 10. Nobody knows where he was murdered.
- 11. God helps those who help themselves.
- 12. Walk quickly or you will miss the train.
- 13. I know where he has gone.
- 14. They rested when the night came.
- 15. I know a place where wild roses grow.
- 16. Work hard and you will pass.
- 17. Men may come and men may go but I go on for ever.
- 18. Come tomorrow and get your money.
- 19. We returned home when the sun set.
- 20. People who eat too much, die early.



We have already learnt that a Subordinate Clause that does the work of a Noun in a sentence, is called Noun Clause.

Since a Noun Clause does the work of a noun in a Complex Sentence, it can be:

- 1. The Subject of a Verb.
- 2. The Object of a Verb.
- 3. The Object of a Preposition.
- 4. The Complement of a Verb of Incomplete Predication
- 5. In Apposition to a Noun or a Pronoun.

In each of the following Complex Sentences, the Noun clause is the Subject of a Verb; as

Examples: Why she left is a mystery.

How he will help us remains to be seen.

What he says is quite false.

That he is an honest man is quite true.

In each of the following Complex Sentences, the Noun Clause is the Object of a Verb; as,

Examples: No one knows *how old she is.*

I believe that he has told a lie.

Tell me why you told a lie.

I do not know when she will return.

He spends whatever he earns.

Tell me where you live.

In each of the following Complex Sentences, the Noun Clause is the Object of a Preposition; as,

Examples: All depends on *how it is done*.

I do not believe in what she says.

Pay careful attention to what he says.

He was greatly pleased with what I did.

In each of the following Complex Sentences, the Noun Clause is used as the Complement of a Verb of Incomplete Predication; as.

Examples: His belief is that ghosts can talk.

My wish is that I may serve you.

Her fear is that she may fail.

This is what she feared most.

Life is what we make it.

In each of the following Complex Sentences, the Noun Clause is an Apposition to a Noun or a Pronoun (it): as;

Examples: It is strange that she should think so.

It is a feared that he will not help us.

It is clear that she was innocent.

My hope that you may pass is very strong.

The report that he was killed is untrue.

Your statement *that he loves money* is false.

It was unfortunate that she was absent.

Remember

A Noun Clause is generally introduced by the Conjunction 'that'. Sometimes however, the Conjunction 'that' is omitted; as He says (that) Peter is ill today.



6	and the first set of the second	cı	Call Call 1	and the second second second	1
В.	Underline the Noun	Clause in each	of the following	i sentences and sav	y how it is used :

2. I have no faith in what she says.

3. He asked me whether my father was at home.

4. I think you have made a mistake.

5. The truth is that we have been deceived.

6. The news that he has failed is untrue.

7. That he will pass this year is uncertain.

8. There is no meaning in what she says.

9. I do not know where you can find her.

10. It is not known who has stolen your book

11. That she should think so surprises me.

12. Her fear is that the secret of her birth may be out.

C. Complete the following by adding suitable Noun Clauses:

1.	Tell him	

2. No one knows ______.

3. He knew

4. Can you guess _____ ?

5. Do you know _____?

6. Will you tell me ______?

7. ______ is quite certain.

8. _____ surprises me.

9. It is certain ______.

10. He was pleased with ______.

11. I think .

12. She told us ______.

13. I fear ______.

14. He replied

15. All thought ______.



An Adjective Clause in a Complex Sentence does the work of an Adjective and so it qualifies some Noun or Pronoun in the Principal Clause.

An Adjective Clause is introduced by a Relative Pronoun or Relative Adverb; as.

Examples: The time *when the train leaves* is not known.

This is the house where he was born.

Those who work hard succeed.

The reason why he told a lie is not known.

Where is the boy whom you punished?



This is the boy who won the first prize.

This is the book *which I found*.

This is the house that John built.

The boy who stole your book has been caught.

But the Relative Pronoun or Relative Adverb is sometimes understood, and not expressed.

1. Eat all you can.

(Here the Relative Pronoun that is understood.)

2. Where is the book I gave you?

(Here the Relative Pronoun which is understood.)

3. I met a man *I know*.

(Here the Relative Pronoun whom is understood.)

4. On the day *you pass the examination* I shall give you a prize.

(Here the Relative Adverb when is understood.)

- 5. The reason *I have come* is to ask for my money. (Here the Relative Adverb why is understood)
- D. Underline the Adjective Clauses in the following sentences:
 - 1. He is not the man I can trust.
 - 2. I remember the house where I was born.
 - 3. I am the monarch of all I survey.
 - 4. God helps those who help themselves.
 - 5. This is the house where she lived.
 - 6. This is the boy who stood first in the examination.
 - 7. Here is the book you want.
 - 8. All that glitters is not gold.
 - 9. He laughs best who laughs last.
 - 10. He gave her everything she asked for.
 - 11. He that is down need fear no fall.
 - 12. He that climbs too high is sure to fall.
 - 13. The story he tells is untrue.

10. Here is the book

- 14. They never fail who die for a great cause.
- 15. The house that she lives in belongs to her father.
- E. Fill in the blanks with suitable Adjective Clauses:

1.	God helps those
	Blessed is the
	He tells a tale
	This is the girl
	I met a girl
	I know the place
	He is the man
	I want back the book
	He never fails



An Adverb Clause in a Complex Sentence does the work of an Adverb. Adverb Clauses are of many kinds:

1. Time 2. Place 3. Purpose

4. Reason 5. Condition 6. Result

7. Comparison 8 Supposition or Contrast

1. Adverb Clauses of Place

Adverb Clauses of Place are introduced by the Subordinating Conjunctions where, wherever, whence, whither, etc.

Examples: You can stay whenever you like.

Go quickly whence you came.

The wind bloweth whither it listeth.

I have put the book where no one can find it.

He fled where no one could find him.

I make friends wherever I go.

2. Adverb Clauses of Time

Adverb Clauses of Time are introduced by the Subordinating Conjunctions when, whenever, while, before, after, till, since, as, etc.

Examples: I have been ill *since I returned from Pune*.

As I came out my mother met me.

As soon as she heard the news she began to cry.

Just as he entered the room the clock struck twelve.

No sooner did he see us than he disappeared.

When the cat is away the mice will play.

He flatters her whenever he meets her.

Do not talk while you are eating.

Before you go bring me a cup of water.

I will meet you after the meeting is over.

Wait till I return.

3. Adverb Classes of Result

Adverb Clauses of Result are introduced by the Subordinating Conjunction *that*. Usually *so or such* precedes it in the Principal Clause.

Examples: He is such a good man that all respect him.

She spoke in such a low voice that very few could hear her.

So good a man is he *that all respect him*.

So terrible a disease broke out that very few people were left alive.

So bravely did they fight that the enemies had to retreat.

He is so old that he can hardly work.



She is so kind a woman that all love her.

The news is so good that it cannot be true.

They made such a noise that I could not work.

4. Adverb Clauses of Condition

Adverb Clauses of Condition are introduced by the Subordinating Conjunctions if, whether, unless.

Examples: You must help her *whether you like her or not*.

He will not pass whether he works or not.

Unless he works harder he will fail.

I will forgive you on condition that admit your guilt.

If it rains we shall not play.

If you eat too much you will be ill.

If you tell me the truth I will forgive you.

5. Adverb Clauses of Comparison

Adverb Clauses of Comparison are of two kinds:

- 1. Adverb Clauses of Comparison of Degree
- 2. Adverb Clauses of Comparison of Manner.
- (1) Adverb Clauses of Comparison of Degree are introduced by the Subordinating Conjunction than, or by the Relative Adverb as: as.

Examples: He is as foolish as he is lazy.

He is not so wise as you think.

She is younger than she looks.

He works harder than *I do*.

(2) Adverb Clauses of Comparison of Manner are introduced by the Relative Adverb as: as

Examples: As you have made your bed so you must lie on it.

It all ended as we expected.

She does as she pleases.

As you sow, so shall you reap.

6. Adverb Clauses of Purpose

Adverb Clauses of Purpose are introduced by the Subordinating Conjunctions that and lest.

Examples: He drew the sword *that he might defend himself.*

We eat that we may live.

They worked hard that they might become rich.

Write down lest you forget all about he news terms.

He walked slowly *lest he should fall*.

She ate little *lest she should fall ill*.

7. Adverb Clauses of Supposition or Contrast

Adverb Clauses of Supposition or Contrast are introduced by the Subordinating Conjunctions *though*, *although*, *even*, *if*; as.

Examples: *Even if he is old,* he is able to do a lot of work.

Although they fought bravely, they were defeated.

Even if you fail, you will be promoted.

Though he is poor, he is honest.

Though he slay me, yet I will trust him.

Although he was ill he attended the meeting.

Even if it rains, we shall go to the picture.

8. Adverb Clauses of Cause of Reason

Adverb Clauses of Cause or Reason are introduced by the Subordinating Conjunctions because, as, that, since.

Examples: As he was guilty, I punished him.

I am glad that you do not like it.

Since you are my friend, I shall help you.

Since you promise to serve me faithfully, I will make you my personal assistant.

I shall help her because I like her.

I could not come yesterday because I was ill.

He thinks *because he is rich,* he can buy justice.

As he was not there, I spoke to his wife.

F. Underli	ne the Adverl	o Clauses in	the following	sentences and say	y of what kind each is	s:
------------	---------------	--------------	---------------	-------------------	------------------------	----

1. Although he failed, he was promoted.	
2. So good a woman is she that all respect her.	
3. He talked in such a way that all followed him.	
4. We work that we may pass.	
5. He is wiser than I am.	
6. Even if it rains, I shall come.	
7. Though she is rich, she is not happy.	
8. Because I like her, I shall help her.	
9. Since you are intelligent, you will pass easily.	
10. As he was ill, he could not come to school.	
11. They worked hard that they might pass the examination.	
12. If you have tears prepare to shed them now.	
13. Unless you work harder you will fail.	
14. You must go there whether you like it or not.	
15. He was very pleased that you had passed.	
Add a suitable Adverb Clause to each of the following :	
1. Nobody trusts him	

2. He fled

G.

-	3. He failed	3.
·		
he is honest.		
-		
you will miss the train.		
he is honest.),	15.