

Sentence Combining: Subordinate Clauses

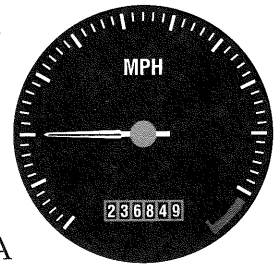
If you combine two sentences whose ideas are equally important, you form a compound sentence. Each clause in a compound sentence can stand alone as a complete sentence.

However, you may combine sentences where one idea is more important than the other, or you may wish to make one idea more important. In that case, you will form a complex sentence. A **complex sentence** contains an independent clause and a dependent clause. A **dependent clause** has a subject and a predicate, but it cannot stand alone as a sentence. Here are some examples:

The car that I bought is a lemon.

This dial indicates how fast you are going.

While you were sleeping, I rearranged all the furniture.



Read each sentence and look at the underlined clause. If the underlined clause is independent, write *IC* on the line. If the underlined clause is a dependent clause, write *DC*.

1. The newspaper that you are reading is from last week. _____
2. While Orson watched the movie, he munched chips. _____
3. Some people want whatever is popular at the moment. _____
4. At craft fairs Olive priced her dolls competitively, and she always sold out. _____
5. Always save your work on a disk because you never know when the computer may crash. _____
6. Customers who arrived at the store by 7:00 A.M. received a free gift. _____
7. The cookies were stale, but we ate them anyway. _____
8. Unless the rain stops soon, the ballgame will be cancelled. _____
9. That old rolltop desk, which belonged to my grandfather, is very valuable. _____
10. The team played hard to the end although they had no chance of winning. _____
11. The table is new, but I found the lamp in my parents' attic. _____
12. Annie confessed that she had always wanted to learn to yodel. _____

B**Practice**

There may be more than one way to combine two or more sentences into a single complex sentence.

Contestants ride boats. They have built the boats themselves.

- (1) Contestants ride boats that they have built themselves.
- (2) Contestants themselves have built the boats that they ride.

Both original sentences describe the boats. Therefore, either sentence can be used as the independent clause, and the other sentence can become a dependent clause. In the next example, the order of events is important.

Rudi sanded the model plane. Then he painted the model.

- (1) After Rudi sanded the model plane, he painted it.
- (2) Rudi sanded the model plane before he painted it.

Here are some of the words often used when combining two sentences into a complex sentence: the pronouns *who, which, what, that, whoever, whatever*; the adverbs *how, when, where, why*; the conjunctions *after, although, as, because, before, if, since, so, unless, until, and while*.

For each item, circle the letter of the sentence that correctly combines the underlined sentences.

1. The room was stuffy.
Nancy opened all the windows.
 - A Because the room was stuffy, Nancy opened all the windows.
 - B Because Nancy opened all the windows, the room was stuffy.
2. We drove fifty miles into the desert.
Then we discovered we were going in the wrong direction.
 - A We drove fifty miles into the desert after we discovered we were going in the wrong direction.
 - B After we drove fifty miles into the desert, we discovered we were going in the wrong direction.
3. Everyone in the library looked startled.
I dropped a large dictionary on the floor.
 - A When everyone in the library looked startled, I dropped a large dictionary on the floor.
 - B When I dropped a large dictionary on the floor, everyone in the library looked startled.
4. Paul's suitcase was damaged.
He lost some of the contents.
 - A Paul's suitcase was damaged, so he lost some of the contents.
 - B Paul lost some of the contents of his suitcase, so his suitcase was damaged.

C Apply

Read the underlined sentences. If the following complex sentence combines them correctly, write *Correct*. If it does not, write a correct complex sentence.

1. Hernando enjoyed fishing in the cove.

It was quiet and peaceful there.

Because Hernando enjoyed fishing in the cove, it was quiet and peaceful there.

2. This afternoon I drove to Mindy's office.

Her office is downtown.

This afternoon I drove to Mindy's office, which is downtown.

3. My truck ran out of gas.

I had to walk four miles to the nearest town.

My truck ran out of gas, after I had to walk four miles to the nearest town.

4. Raymond neglected to level the ground properly.

The patio stones are uneven.

Since the patio stones are uneven, Raymond neglected to level the ground properly.

5. We must leave right now.

Otherwise, I will be late.

We must leave right now unless I will be late.

6. Jacqueline received a transfer.

She had requested the transfer.

Jacqueline received the transfer that she had requested.

D**Check Up**

Read the underlined sentences. Choose the compound or complex sentence that correctly combines the underlined sentences.

1. The factory received more orders.
Everyone is working overtime.
 - A The factory received more orders unless everyone is working overtime.
 - B Everyone is working overtime, but the factory received more orders.
 - C The factory received more orders, so everyone is working overtime.
 - D Everyone in the factory has been ordered to work overtime.

2. The weather report called for freezing temperatures.
Caleb wore his heavy coat and hat.
 - F The weather report called for freezing temperatures, but Caleb wore his heavy coat and hat.
 - G Caleb wore his heavy coat and hat because the weather report called for freezing temperatures.
 - H Although Caleb wore his heavy coat and hat, the weather report called for freezing temperatures.
 - J The weather report called for freezing temperatures, or Caleb wore his heavy coat and hat.

3. The bus company requires exact fares.
I have only a five dollar bill.
 - A Since I have only a five dollar bill, the bus company requires exact fares.
 - B Although I have only a five dollar bill, the bus company requires exact fares.
 - C The bus company requires exact fares, or I have only a five dollar bill.
 - D The bus company requires exact fares, but I have only a five dollar bill.

4. Bethany usually parks in the underground garage.
It is close to her office.
 - F Bethany usually parks in the underground garage while it is close to her office.
 - G Because Bethany usually parks in the underground garage, it is close to her office.
 - H Whenever the underground garage is close to her office, Bethany parks in it.
 - J Bethany usually parks in the underground garage that is close to her office.