

## To identify and use complex sentences

If you have access to the internet, watch the video link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyVfspf-qlc>

There are three types of sentence - **simple, compound and complex**. Using **complex sentences** can make it easier to add layers of information and detail when writing. Complex sentences have at least one **subordinate clause** that **adds more detail and information to the sentence**. Complex sentences can be useful for presenting ideas that need layers of information and details. In order to understand complex sentences, it's helpful to first look at simple and compound sentences.

### Simple sentences

Simple sentences have just one **main verb**, for example:

'He **walked** quickly back to the house.'

Simple sentences are important for making clear points. They are also useful for creating tension when writing fiction. However, if you only ever use simple sentences in your writing, the reader might lose interest in what you are saying. Too many simple

sentences can make writing seem disjointed. To hold a reader's interest, it's important to use a variety of sentence types.



### Compound sentences

A compound sentence has more than one verb. The two, or more, clauses of the sentence still make sense on their own. Compound sentences often use **coordinating conjunctions**, such as 'but', 'and' and 'so':

'George realised he could hear voices, **so** he walked quickly back to the house.'

Compound sentences are useful for **connecting events and ideas** in your writing. Only using compound sentences could make your writing sound less sophisticated.

### Subordinate clauses

Subordinate clauses are sometimes known as dependent clauses, because they **need the main part of the sentence** to make sense. They don't make complete sense on their own:

'George wanted to stay outside, **despite the driving rain and wind**.'

The subordinate clause 'despite the driving rain and wind' **does not make sense on its own** and is **adding extra information to the main clause**. Subordinate clauses can be an effective way to add more detail to your writing.

### Subordinate conjunctions

A subordinate clause usually begins with a subordinate conjunction, such as:

- **although**
- **because**
- **even though**
- **despite**
- **when**

WHAT IS A  
**subordinate  
clause?**

This type of conjunction signals to the reader that this part of the sentence is adding additional information to the main part of the sentence.

The **subordinate clause can go at the start, in the middle or at the end of the sentence**:

- 'Even though it was getting dark, Sam wanted to go for a walk.'
- 'Sam, even though it was getting dark, wanted to go for a walk.'
- 'Sam wanted to go for walk even though it was getting dark.'

## **Activities**

### **Mild- Task 1**

### **Spicy- Task 1 and 2**

### **Hot- All tasks**

**Task 1-** In your Home learning books, copy the text below and write the subordinating conjunction you think should be in the blank gaps so that the sentences make sense. Underline the conjunctions in a different colour (using a ruler) so that you can check your answers at the end.

In the Junior School, there is no afternoon play. However, the Year 3 teachers are really kind \_\_\_\_\_ they'll take you outside to run around in the first few weeks. Children in Year 2 will love playtimes in the Junior School, \_\_\_\_\_ of the fantastic equipment they are lucky enough to use. \_\_\_\_\_ the Year 3 children are youngest in the school, they have the opportunity to go to lunch ten minutes before the rest of the school, \_\_\_\_\_ they have longer lunchtimes outdoors!

Mrs Bhavsar expects the children to be very sensible everywhere around the school. She rarely has to tell anyone off, \_\_\_\_\_ if you don't follow the rules, there are consequences. To keep safe in school, some of the rules children need to follow are: never run in the corridor, keep to the left, always listen to your teacher, walk sensibly in your line, do your homework \_\_\_\_\_ remember to be kind to one another. It is important to be kind to others \_\_\_\_\_ we all want to be happy in school.

as	therefore	and
but	because	so

## Task 2

In your Home learning books, write out the following sentences below and underline the subordinate clauses in a different colour (using a ruler). Remember, the subordinate clause can go at the start, in the middle or at the end of the sentence. Look at the example below to help:

Children enjoy using the pond in the Nature Garden, when they start the Junior School.

1. Despite it being cloudy outside, the children will still have playtimes outdoors in the playground.
2. In the junior school there is no afternoon playtime, although the infant school has one.
3. Children enjoy eating lunch with their friends, as they are having a break from learning.
4. Ever since the school purchased them, the children can use Ipads in their lessons.
5. The children start their daily challenge each morning, because they are in Soft Start.
6. Children in the classroom are chatting, even though the teacher is taking the register.

Task 3- In your Home learning books, add subordinate clauses to each of the simple sentences to form a complex sentence. At the end, see if you can come up with 3 of your own complex sentences.

Example: Children enjoy using the playground equipment.

Children enjoy using the playground equipment, as they can play with their friends.

1. It is important that children follow the rules in school.
2. There is no afternoon playtime in the Juniors.
3. The field is used during the summer.
4. Twice a day the class teacher takes the register.
5. Children must wash their hands before they eat their lunch.

**Now come up with your own complex sentences. Remember you need to add a subordinate clause to the main clause.**

## Task 1 Answers

In the Junior School, there is no afternoon play. However, the Year 3 teachers are really kind **so** they'll take you outside to run around in the first few weeks. Children in Year 2 will love playtimes in the Junior School, **because** of the fantastic equipment they are lucky enough to use. **As** the Year 3 children are youngest in the school, they have the opportunity to go to lunch ten minutes before the rest of the school, **therefore** they have longer lunchtimes outdoors!

Mrs Bhavsar expects the children to be very sensible everywhere around the school. She rarely has to tell anyone off, **but** if you don't follow the rules, there are consequences. To keep safe in school, some of the rules children need to follow are: never run in the corridor, keep to the left, always listen to your teacher, walk sensibly in your line, do your homework **and** remember to be kind to one another. It is important to be kind to others **as** we all want to be happy in school.

## Task 2 Answers

1. **Despite it being cloudy outside**, the children will still have playtimes outdoors in the playground.
2. In the junior school there is no afternoon playtime, **although the infant school has one**.
3. Children enjoy eating lunch with their friends, **as they are having a break from learning**.
4. **Ever since the school purchased them**, the children can use Ipads in their lessons.
5. The children start their daily challenge each morning, **because they are in Soft Start**.
6. Children in the classroom are chatting, **even though the teacher is taking the register**.

Answers to Task 3 will vary.