

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Complex Sentences

You have already learned about **simple sentences** and **compound sentences**. Another type of sentence structure is the **complex sentence**. A **complex sentence** is made up of a **simple sentence**, or one independent clause, and at least one **dependent clause**. A **dependent clause** has a subject and a verb, but it does not express a complete thought—the meaning “depends” on the rest of the sentence that it is attached to.

Examples of Complex Sentences:

- After I brushed my teeth, I put on my pajamas.
  - Simple Sentence: I put on my pajamas. Dependent Clause: After I brushed my teeth.
- We cannot go outside because it is raining.
  - Simple Sentence: We cannot go outside. Dependent Clause: Because it is raining.

**Dependent Clauses** are often introduced by a subordinate conjunction. Here are a few subordinate conjunctions to be on the lookout for: after, when, because, before, while, if, until, since.

Read the following **complex sentences**. Underline the **dependent clause** in the sentence.

1. When Jessica arrived at my house, we decided to go swimming.
2. You can play outside until the sun goes down.
3. Before you watch television, you must finish your homework.
4. While my brother practices football, I am going to read my book.
5. I cannot wait to go fishing when Grandpa gets home from work.
6. Since it is too cold to go swimming, let's play a game instead.

Determine if the sentence is simple, compound, or complex. Write **S** for simple, write **CD** for compound and write **CX** for complex.

7. We are going to buy me a new jacket since the old one is too small. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Mom made spaghetti for dinner, but I was too sick to eat any. \_\_\_\_\_
9. I left my backpack and my notebook on the bus yesterday. \_\_\_\_\_
10. If I finish this book today, I will take it back to the library. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Answers Complex Sentences

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