

Application to Writing

In the editing stage of your writing, look at the kinds of sentences you have written. If most of your sentences are simple sentences, combine some of them into compound or complex sentences. Then your writing will have more variety and be more interesting to read.

TWO SIMPLE SENTENCES We practiced until five o'clock. Then the coach talked about next week's game.

A COMPOUND SENTENCE We practiced until five o'clock, and then the coach talked about next week's game. [The two sentences have been joined by a comma and the conjunction *and*.]

TWO SIMPLE SENTENCES We finally reached the dock. Then the storm broke.

A COMPLEX SENTENCE When we finally reached the dock, the storm broke. [The first sentence has been changed into an adverb clause.]

TWO SIMPLE SENTENCES Otters love the water. They do not feel at home in dry places.

A COMPLEX SENTENCE Otters, which love the water, do not feel at home in dry places. [Part of one sentence has been changed into an adjective clause.]

EXERCISE 15 Combining Sentences

Number your paper 1 to 10. Then combine each pair of sentences into a compound sentence. Use a comma or a semicolon where needed.

1. Morning glories are open wide at sunrise. Strong light often closes the blossoms before noon.
2. After the play we went backstage. Some of the actors gave us their autographs.
3. Moths don't eat your clothes. Some moth caterpillars do.

4. The pitcher threw the ball high. The batter slammed it.
5. The collie is a nervous dog. It is a good companion.
6. Monkeys, apes, and humans are primates. Human primates have the most highly developed brain.
7. I enjoyed our visit to Minnesota. Adam preferred our visit to Wisconsin.
8. John Adams was the second president. Thomas Jefferson was his vice-president.
9. The Tigers wanted the state championship. The Bears were too good for them.
10. Sprains occur in the ligaments. Strains occur in the muscles.

EXERCISE 16 Combining Sentences

Number your paper 1 to 10. Then combine each pair of sentences into a complex sentence. Use commas where needed.

1. We were walking by the river. We skimmed stones across the surface of the water.
2. Spanish missionaries settled in California. They planted the first orchards in America.
3. Clay feels very smooth. It actually is powdered rock.
4. Madison High will close this year. It is across town.
5. Bees can see ultraviolet rays. The rays are invisible to the human eye.
6. In colonial days mail was carried by a post rider. He rode horseback from city to city.
7. Adobe consists of clay and sand. It dries without a crack.
8. I tracked mud across the kitchen floor. Mom handed me the mop.
9. Judy Mason is a student at Kendall Middle School. She takes gymnastic lessons with me.
10. W. D. Boyce visited the English Boy Scouts. Then he organized the Boy Scouts of America.

Complex Sentences

If you can recognize independent and subordinate clauses, you can also recognize complex sentences.

A **complex sentence** consists of one independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

adverb clause ————— independent clause —————
Since we have extra time, we can walk to the movies.

independent clause ————— adjective clause —————
I have already finished my report that is due on Friday.

EXERCISE 12 Distinguishing between Sentences

Number your paper 1 to 10. Then label each sentence *compound* or *complex*.

1. The first steam-driven cars were unpopular because they were noisy and dirtied the air with smoke.
2. The first postal trucks were made so that a mule could replace a failed engine.
3. An electric car gets its power from a battery, but the battery must constantly be recharged.
4. Electric cars were popular in the 1890s and 1900s, but cars with gasoline engines soon replaced them.
5. Although people had hired vehicles for thousands of years, the word *taxicab* wasn't used until the 1800s.
6. The longest bicycle, which was built for 35, was made in Denmark in 1976.
7. The bicycle weighed more than a ton, and it was 72 feet long.
8. Some astronauts who went to the moon traveled in a lunar rover.
9. A lunar rover looks something like a jeep, but a rover's top and sides are completely open.
10. Since a lunar rover has no engine, it runs on power from a battery.

Things
That Move

EXERCISE 13 Writing Sentences

Number your paper 1 to 5. Write five sentences that follow the directions below. Use punctuation where needed.

1. Write a simple sentence with a compound verb.
2. Write a compound sentence that contains the conjunction *but*.
3. Write a compound sentence that contains a semicolon.
4. Write a complex sentence that includes one adverb clause.
5. Write a complex sentence that includes one adjective clause.

TIME-OUT FOR REVIEW • • • • •

Number your paper 1 to 10. Then label each sentence *simple*, *compound*, or *complex*.

1. Charles Willson Peale never saw a painting until he was a grown man.
2. He was a saddlemaker by trade and lived in Annapolis, Maryland.
3. One day Peale went to Norfolk for supplies and saw paintings for the first time.
4. He did not like any of the paintings; they did not look realistic.
5. When he returned home, he took up painting with a great deal of energy and talent.
6. He took lessons in Boston and even went to London for more lessons.
7. After he had made some money from his paintings, he became a full-time painter.
8. Peale loved painting, but his enjoyment was not enough for him.
9. He taught his skills to his 17 children and all his relatives and created a family of artists.
10. Charles Willson Peale became the famous patriot painter who painted George Washington's portrait.

A Great
Artist