



Simple, Complex and
Compound sentences
outlined

Simple Sentences are...

SIMPLE!

You **all** use simple sentences in your writing.

For example *'The sand was golden.'* Or
'The sun was hot.'

If you only use simple sentences
your reader will
fall asleep.



Compound Sentences are...

A little less simple.

When you have two or more short, independent, simple sentences which are of **equal weight** you can join them together using **CONJUNCTIONS**.

For example:

The sea was rough.

The sun was shining.

These are both boring **simple sentences**. You can put these together to make one longer, more interesting **compound sentence** using a **conjunction**.

For example: The sea was rough but the sun was shining.

The most common conjunctions are: **and, as, but, or, so**

Remember: JUNCTIONS join roads together, so **CONJUNCTIONS** join sentences together!



So far we have learnt....

Simple Sentences – Contain a **subject** and a **verb**.

The **sun** **shines** brightly.

The **children** **play** football on the beach.

Compound Sentences – Contain a **subject**, a **verb** and a **conjunction**.

The **sun** was **shining**, **so** the **people** got **burnt**.

The **seagulls** **sang** **as** the **sea** **came** in.

Another note: Try not to use the same **conjunction** over and over again. Vary them to make it more interesting!

Complex sentences are...

The hardest of all! So listen carefully...

The Small Print...

When you make a compound sentence you are joining two or more simple sentences together with a **conjunction**. If you took the **conjunction** away, the sentences would be complete and they would still make sense.

This isn't the same for complex sentences. Complex sentences don't just divide into neat, complete, simple sentences if you take out the **conjunctions**. In complex sentences the **conjunction** is used to join together **clauses**. A **clause** is a group of words that contains a **subject** and a **verb**. Some of these **clauses** might be complete short sentences, but in a complex sentence at least one of them will **depend on the conjunction** for its meaning.

In other words, if you take the **conjunction away, the sentence won't divide into complete units that make sense by themselves!**

Thailand flourishes in March, although it rains in August.

Thailand flourishes in March – *Main clause (complete, short sentence)*

Although – *Conjunction*

It rains in August – *Subordinate clause (Called this because it doesn't really make sense on its own!)*

While the breeze blew, people flew colourful kites.

While – *Conjunction (Yes, they can be at the beginning of sentences too!)*

The breeze blew – *Subordinate clause*

People flew colourful kites – *Main clause (complete, short sentence)*

Notice that only 1 of the 2 clauses in these sentences makes sense on its own!

I tried to speak Spanish, and my friend tried to speak French.

COMPOUND

When he handed in his homework, he forgot to give the teacher the last page.

COMPLEX

Some students like to study in the mornings.

SIMPLE

Alicia goes to the library to study everyday.

SIMPLE

Mark played football, so Maria went shopping.

COMPOUND

Kelly and Beth went to the movies after they finished studying

COMPLEX