ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

# Complex sentences

### Difficulty level: Intermediate

### English, Literacy, and Communication

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## *Overview of the concept*

This is how you show that one idea depends on another in your writing. Giving a reason, a time, or a condition in one clear sentence lets your reader see how your ideas connect. Without complex sentences, writing reads like a list of short facts, and the relationships between your ideas get lost.



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## Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

### Q Make a complex sentence from: We stayed home. It rained.

**SOLUTION**

Decide which idea is main: we stayed home. Which depends on it? It rained is the reason.

Put the reason in a dependent clause: 'because it rained'.

So: We stayed home because it rained.

EXAMPLE 2

### Q Make a complex sentence from: She called me. She arrived.

**SOLUTION**

Decide which idea is main: she called me. Which gives the time? She arrived.

Put the time in a dependent clause: 'when she arrived'.

So: She called me when she arrived.

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## Practice questions

1

### Make complex: I will go. It stops raining. (condition)

A I will go because it stops raining.

B I will go if it stops raining.

C I will go when it stops raining.

D It stops raining if I will go.

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2

### Make complex: He smiled. He saw her. (time)

A He smiled because he saw her.

B He smiled if he saw her.

C He saw her when he smiled.

D He smiled when he saw her.

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## 3 Make complex: We left early. We were tired. (reason)

- **A** We left early because we were tired.
- **B** We left early when we were tired.
- **C** We left early if we were tired.
- **D** We were tired because we left early.

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## 4 Make complex: She read the book. Her teacher gave it to her. (relative)

- **A** She read the book when her teacher gave her.
- **B** She read the book because her teacher gave her.
- **C** She read the book that her teacher gave her.
- **D** She read the book and her teacher gave her.

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## 5 Make complex: He went for a walk. It was raining. (contrast)

- **A** He went for a walk because it was raining.
- **B** He went for a walk when it was raining.
- **C** He went for a walk although it was raining.
- **D** He went for a walk if it was raining.

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## 6 Which part is the dependent clause in 'They cheered when the team scored'?

- **A** They cheered
- **B** when the team scored
- **C** They cheered when
- **D** the team scored

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## 7 Which of these sentences is a complex sentence?

- A We will eat. Dinner is ready.
- B We will eat when dinner is ready.
- C Dinner is ready and we will eat.
- D We will eat dinner.

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## 8 Make complex: He saved money. He could buy a bike. (purpose)

- A He saved money because he could buy a bike.
- B He saved money when he could buy a bike.
- C He saved money so that he could buy a bike.
- D He saved money if he could buy a bike.

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## 9 Make complex: The dog barked. The mail arrived. (time, immediate)

- **A** The dog barked because the mail arrived.
- **B** The dog barked when the mail arrived.
- **C** The dog barked as soon as the mail arrived.
- **D** The dog barked if the mail arrived.

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## 10 Make complex: She practised. She improved. (time, use 'as')

- **A** She improved as she practised.
- **B** She improved because she practised.
- **C** She improved when she practised.
- **D** She practised as she improved.

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## ANSWER KEY

1. I will go if it stops raining.
2. He smiled when he saw her.
3. We left early because we were tired.
4. She read the book that her teacher gave her.
5. He went for a walk although it was raining.
6. when the team scored
7. We will eat when dinner is ready.
8. He saved money so that he could buy a bike.
9. The dog barked as soon as the mail arrived.
10. She improved as she practised.

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