

THE COMPLEX SENTENCE

Complex sentence

This is a sentence made up of one subordinate (dependent) clause and also contains one (or more) independent clauses.

- The independent clause stands alone as a sentence; however, although the subordinate clause also contains a subject/verb combination, it can never stand alone because it is incomplete.
- A complex sentence always contains a **subordinating conjunction** or a **relative pronoun** which introduces the subordinate (dependent) clause.
- The dependent clause may occur at the beginning, at the end, or in the middle of a sentence.

<p>Example of dependent clause at the beginning:</p>	<p>dependent clause</p> <p>⎵</p> <p>After we saw the movie, we went to dinner.</p>
<p>Example of dependent clause in the middle:</p>	<p>dependent clause</p> <p>⎵</p> <p>The boy, with the red hair, is the president of the class.</p>
<p>Example of dependent clause at the end:</p>	<p>dependent clause</p> <p>⎵</p> <p>Maria could not go to the dance because she was sick.</p>

- Dependent clauses begin with a **subordinating conjunction** (also called a **dependent word**).
- **It cannot stand alone as a sentence; it must be attached to an independent clause (complete sentence).** Otherwise it will be a fragment.
- When a dependent clause is attached to an independent clause, it is called a **complex sentence**.

The following list of words will help you identify subordinate (dependent) clauses:

Subordinating Conjunctions				Relative Pronouns	
after	than	before	where	that	whoever
although	though	even though	whereas	what	whom
as	unless	how	wherever	whatever	whomever
as if	until	if	whether	which	whose
as though	when	since	while	who	whichever
because	whenever	so that			

***DO NOT** confuse **subordinating conjunctions** with the **coordinating conjunctions** (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so). **Coordinating conjunctions** are used to join two or more **independent clauses** to form a **COMPOUND** sentence.