

Compound-Complex Sentences

A compound-complex sentence consists of two or more main clauses and one or more subordinate clauses. It may help you to think of a compound-complex sentence as a compound sentence plus a subordinate clause. Actually, the compound-complex sentences join two sentences, at least one of which has a subordinate clause. The main clauses are joined by either a coordinating conjunction or a semicolon.

Main Clause
Gina Knew

Subordinate Clause
that she would have to wait,

Main Clause
but she didn't mind

Main Clause
Carl was surprised

Subordinate Clause
when he was chosen;

Main Clause
he had never expected to win

Analyzing Compound-Complex Sentences. Underline each main clause once and each subordinate clause twice.

1. Pam knew where the park was, and she gave us directions.
2. After our team won, we decided to celebrate, so we led a parade through town.
3. When the committee met, witnesses testified about poor living conditions, and experts suggested improvements.
4. Sharon has been studying piano since she was six years old, and she enjoys it.
5. Greg said that we should start without him, but we waited anyway.
6. The radio that you like is on sale, but it is still expensive.
7. The bookstore ordered the items that Tim requested, and he is waiting for them.
8. The mayor outlined his plane, which was very complicated, and then reporters asked questions about it.
9. The sale items were so popular that they were gone in an hour, and the manager agreed to order more.
10. Scientists have identified the agents that cause the disease, but they haven't found a cure for it.
11. The actor was nervous before he auditioned; he felt that he did well, though.
13. Vanessa's sister is a computer programmer; she translates information into symbols that the computer reads.
14. Since the rain stopped, the game can be resumed; our team is ahead.
15. High blood pressure is a serious condition that affects many people, and it should be treated by a qualified physician.