

THE COMPLEX SENTENCE

The complex sentence consists of one main clause and one or more subordinating clauses. The subordinate clause modifies a word in the main clause.

After Dan studies, he often watches television. (subordinate clause modifies *watches*)

This is the week *when the Todds go on vacation.* (subordinate clause modifies *week*)

After Ann made the salad, she set the table. (subordinate clause modifies *set*)

Identifying Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences. Read the following sentences, and indicate whether each is simple, compound, or complex.

Example: I'm going to bed early because I'm tired. complex

1. We rang the doorbell, but no one answered it. _____
2. I wrote Jane a letter while she was away at camp. _____
3. Have you seen Mr. Nelson's garden at the back of his house? _____
4. When Miss Jones entered the room, we all became quiet. _____
5. Susan likes chemistry, but she likes physics better. _____
6. Since we've lost every game but one, no one is excited about football this year. _____
7. When I'm tired, I'm not good company for anyone. _____
8. Wandering aimlessly up the path, Mr. Cutter approached the house. _____
9. Susan sang a solo and accompanied herself on the piano. _____
10. When the rain began, we were playing tennis. _____
11. When Uncle Jack comes to town, we all have a good time. _____
12. I worked all morning, and then I relaxed in the afternoon. _____
13. Beth likes all seasons of the year, but she likes fall best. _____
14. On our trip we drove every afternoon until five o'clock. _____
15. Dave began to feel better before the doctor arrived. _____
16. Whistling loudly, Ken walked past the cemetery. _____
17. How many states can you see from Lookout Mountain? _____
18. If you want your car really clean, let George wash it. _____
19. I must stay home until the man comes to repair the washing machine. _____
20. Our neighbors are going to Canada on their vacation, but we will take our vacation at home. _____