

## 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.

<b>Example</b> of dependent clause at the <b>beginning</b> :	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>dependent clause</b></p>  <p><b>After we saw the movie,</b> we went to dinner.</p> </div>
<b>Example</b> of dependent clause in the <b>middle</b> :	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>dependent clause</b></p>  <p>The boy, <b>with the red hair,</b> is the president of the class.</p> </div>
<b>Example</b> of dependent clause at the <b>end</b> :	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>dependent clause</b></p>  <p>Maria could not go to the dance <b>because she was sick.</b></p> </div>

- 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.

**Exercise 1:** For each COMPLEX sentence complete the following steps:

- Draw a slash between the subject and the verb.
- Bracket the subordinate clause.
- Star the subordinator.

**Example:** [\*As the bell rang,] the student/ rushed into the classroom.

- Our team scored seven points before the game ended.
- Although we wanted to go to the play, we couldn't get tickets.
- Joshua did not do well on the test since he forgot to study for it.
- Kelly's brother, who is a volunteer fireman, is also an engineer.
- The class was cancelled because not enough students signed up for it.

**Exercise 2:** In the space below, write five original COMPLEX sentences. Make sure to:

- Draw a slash between the subject and verb.
- Bracket the subordinate clause.
- Star the subordinator.