

Writing Sentences: Simple, Complex, and Compound Level: Elementary School

- *A simple sentence contains a subject and a predicate. It expresses a complete thought. (e.g., My dog needs a bath.)*
- *A complex sentence contains two related ideas joined by a subordinating conjunction such as "because" or "while." (e.g., Joe is busy. He has a job. → Joe is busy because he has a job.)*
- *A compound sentence contains two independent clauses joined by a comma, and a coordinating conjunction such as "and," "but," or "or." (e.g., Jessica found a raccoon in the attic, and it startled her.) It can also be created by joining two independent clauses with a semicolon. (e.g., Jessica found a raccoon in the attic; it startled her.)*

Tell whether each sentence below is simple, complex, or compound:

1. A brown bat may live in a barn, or it may prefer a cave. _____
2. The park was open until 9 p.m. _____
3. Dawn was tired because she had stayed up all night. _____
4. Many visitors come to Disneyland each year. _____
5. My dad went to the store, and he bought me a candy bar. _____
6. She always does all of her chores. _____
7. Crista likes spiders; she studies them all of the time. _____
8. Jessica fed the cats while the Smith family was out of town. _____
9. Tommy was tired, but he continued to play video games. _____
10. Elaine had a great time at the party. _____

Writing Sentences: Simple, Complex, and Compound Answer Sheet

1. compound
2. simple
3. complex
4. simple
5. compound
6. simple
7. compound
8. complex
9. compound
10. simple