

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

Remember that a simple sentence expresses a complete thought and has a subject and a predicate in the sentence. A complex sentence has an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses. Remember, a complex sentence always has a subordinating conjunction (such as because, since, after, though, or when) or a relative pronoun (such as that, who, or which). A compound sentence contains two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction such as for, and, nor, but, or, yet, or so.

Identify whether the following sentences are simple, complex, or compound. Circle the subordinating conjunction or the coordinating conjunction that is joining the clauses in the complex and compound sentences.

1. Jerry raced his bike up the hill.
 - a. simple
 - b. complex
 - c. compound

2. Sarah was healthy, yet she sometimes had headaches.
 - a. simple
 - b. complex
 - c. compound

3. Because of the rain, Gary could barely see the road.
 - a. simple
 - b. complex
 - c. compound

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4. I could go to the library for a book, or I could go to the coffee shop for a snack.
 - a. simple
 - b. complex
 - c. compound

5. In the house, the telephone rang and rang.
 - a. simple
 - b. complex
 - c. compound

6. I don't like ice cream anymore since it made me sick once.
 - a. simple
 - b. complex
 - c. compound

7. I love peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and I usually eat them with chips.
 - a. simple
 - b. complex
 - c. compound

8. I wanted to get to the window quickly because I wanted a picture of the rainbow.
 - a. simple
 - b. complex
 - c. compound

Writing Sentences: Simple, Complex, and Compound Answer Sheet

1. a.
2. c.; coordinating conjunction: yet
3. b.; subordinating conjunction: because
4. c.; coordinating conjunction: or
5. a.
6. b.; subordinating conjunction: since
7. c.; coordinating conjunction: and
8. b.; subordinating conjunction: because