

Compound Complex Sentence Study Guide

1. Trying to determine if you have a simple, compound, or complex sentence, you must first look for an ABE IS TUW (Subordinating Conjunction)
 - a. after, as, before, because, besides, even though, even if, if, since, though, unless, upon, until, when, wherever, while, whenever, whether-----These all begin Dependent Clauses!
2. Punctuation Rule: “If a sentence begins with a subordinating conjunction, there is a comma before the independent clause.”
 - a. Since everyone has to study for the test, they should all get A’s.
3. Punctuation Rule: There is no comma when the subordinating conjunction comes in the middle of the sentence.
 - a. I like to play softball after I finish all of my work.
4. So, a COMPLEX SENTENCE is made up of a DEPENDENT CLAUSE combined with an INDEPENDENT CLAUSE.
 - a. Remember, you need an ABE IS TUW to make a clause a dependent clause.
5. Don’t forget the Relative Pronouns: who, whose, whom, which, and that.
 - a. These give more information about the subject, but are also dependent clauses because they cannot stand on their own and they can also be taken out of a sentence and the sentence will still make sense.
 - b. Jeff, who is tall and lean, is the pitcher for our baseball team.
 - c. She is reading that book with the dragon on the cover every single day.

Take out the dependent clause and you still have a sentence

Compound Sentences

1. If there is no ABE IS TUW, then look for a Fanboys (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So) and a comma. Plus, there needs to be a complete sentence on both sides of the FANBOYS (called Coordinating Conjunctions because they connect Two Independent Clauses)
 - a. I really like chicken wings, but I don’t like oysters.
2. Remember, the COMMA and FANBOYS can be replaced by a SEMICOLON to combine the two independent clauses to make a compound sentence.
 - a. Jessie really enjoyed her date; she was sure he would text her to set up another one.
3. Just because you see a FANBOYS and a COMMA does not mean that the sentence is a compound one because there is not a sentence on both sides of the FANBOYS and comma.
 - a. Tim and Sandy married on October 27th, 1998. (“Tim” is not a complete sentence)
 - b. I like pizza, chicken wings, football, and cheerleaders. (“cheerleaders” is not a complete sentence)
 - i. So, the two sentences in 3 a. and 3 b are called SIMPLE SENTENCES because they contain only ONE INDEPENDENT CLAUSE.