

Introduction

The previous unit focused on compound sentences and linking words. Compound sentences use conjunctions, such as For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, and So (known as FANBOYS), or a semi-colon, to combine more than one independent clauses together.

This unit will explore complex sentences. To be an effective writer, your essays must consist of simple sentences, compound sentences and complex sentences. You need all three types of sentences to be an effective writer. Complex sentences consist of independent clauses and either one or more additional clauses. In a sentence, an independent clause can stand alone, but a dependent clause cannot stand alone regardless of whether it has a subject and a verb.

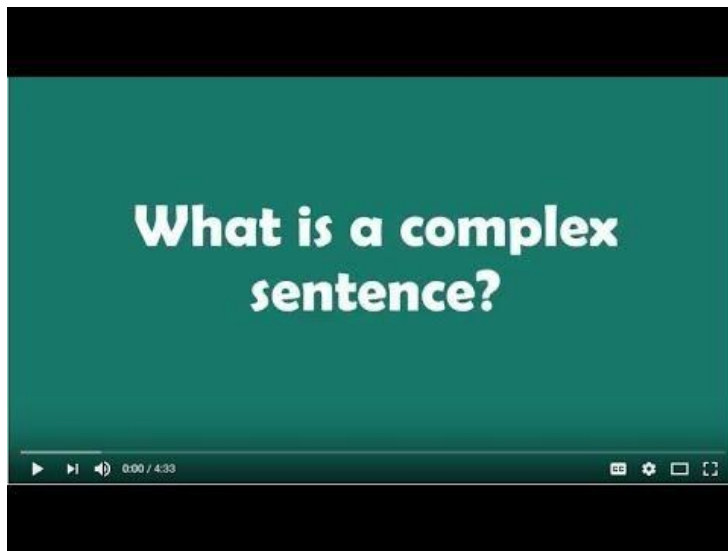
At the end of this Unity, you will be able to:

- Define a complex sentence
- Write a complex sentence correctly
- Combine independent and dependent clauses into a complex sentence

Learning Content

What is a Complex Sentence?

Complex sentences consist of independent clauses and either one or more subordinate clauses. In a sentence, an independent clause can stand alone however dependent clauses cannot stand alone regardless on whether or not it has a subject and a verb.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7XD_sYbjAI

Examples of complex sentences are:

- (1) Lisa was excited to play for the first team, although she did not get the

position she wanted.

(2) After a lot of practice, Mary still cannot solve the maths equation.

(3) We should go back to the restaurant where we ate sushi.

Complex Sentences Explained

As indicated in the aforementioned examples, complex sentences are quite flexible as they can begin with either an independent clause or the subordinate clause. A comma is always used when the subordinate clause comes first. However, when using an independent clause first, a comma is not required to be used. An independent clause can be used independently as a complete sentence though, because it contains both a subject and a verb. For example:

Choir practice was postponed.

A subordinate clause would not make sense if it was used independently thus, it has to be connected to the independent clause for it to make sense.

... because the hall was occupied.

Combining the two sentences together produces a complex sentence. Most of the time, the sentence always makes sense regardless of which one was used first between the subordinate clause or the independent clause;

Because the hall was occupied, the choir practice was postponed.

The choir practice was postponed, because the hall was occupied.

Summary

To summarise, all good writing should consist of simple, compound and complex sentences. As a reminder of what each of these is, watch the following video:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWmKnrtITHU>