

What are Complex Multi-Clause Sentences?

Worksheet

A complex sentence contains an independent clause plus at least one dependent clause linked by subordinating conjunctions like 'because,' 'although,' 'if,' or 'when'—creating nuanced meaning.

Questions

1. Which sentence is complex?
A) She ran fast and won.
B) Because she trained hard, she won.
C) She trained hard. She won.
D) She trained, worked, and won.
2. What is the dependent clause in 'If you study, you'll pass the test'?
A) you'll pass the test
B) If you study
C) study and pass
D) you study and pass
3. When does a comma follow a dependent clause?
A) Never
B) Always
C) When it starts the sentence
D) When it's very long
4. Which conjunction typically shows cause-effect in a complex sentence?
A) and
B) but
C) because
D) or
5. Build a complex sentence: independent 'The team won the match' + dependent 'after weeks of training'
6. Rewrite as complex: 'She didn't attend. She was ill.'
7. Identify the two clauses: 'Although he was tired, he finished the project.'
8. Define: What is a complex sentence?
9. Define: Name three subordinating conjunctions.
10. Define: Can a complex sentence start with a dependent clause?

Answer Key

1. B) Because she trained hard, she won. — 'Because she trained hard, she won.' has an independent + dependent clause with 'because.'
2. B) If you study — 'If you study' cannot stand alone—it depends on the independent clause.
3. C) When it starts the sentence — Leading dependent clauses need a comma: 'When it rains, we stay inside.'
4. C) because — 'Because' directly connects a reason (dependent) to a result (independent).
5. Independent clause: 'The team won the match.' Subordinating conjunction: 'after' Dependent clause: 'after weeks of training' Complex sentence: 'The team won the match after weeks of training.'
6. Clause 1 (independent): 'She didn't attend.' Clause 2 (to subordinate): 'She was ill.' Subordinating conjunction: 'because' Result: 'She didn't attend because she was ill.'
7. Subordinating conjunction: 'Although' Dependent clause: 'Although he was tired' Independent clause: 'he finished the project' This complex sentence shows contrast between clauses.
8. A sentence with an independent clause and at least one dependent clause joined by a subordinating conjunction.
9. because, although, if, when, while, since, before, after, unless, until.
10. Yes. 'Although it rained, we went out.' Comma required after the dependent clause.

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