Simple and Compound Sentences

Simple sentence

A sentence that has one subject and one predicate and expresses a complete idea.

Independent clause

A group of words with a subject and a verb. An independent clause expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence.

Compound sentence

A sentence made up of two independent clauses joined by a conjunction such as and, but, or or.

A **simple sentence** has one subject and one predicate. A simple sentence is an **independent clause**, or a sentence that expresses a complete thought.

A **compound sentence** has two or more independent clauses joined together with a conjunction. Each clause has a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete idea. A comma usually comes before the conjunction in a compound sentence.

EXAMPLE

Subject Predicate

Carlo took his car to the garage,

Conj. Subject Predicate and the mechanic changed the oil.

A compound sentence tells about two or more related events.

EXAMPLE

Correct: The car was old, but it still ran well.

Incorrect: The mechanic changed the oil, and

gas costs a lot.

Remember that a simple sentence may have a compound subject or a compound verb. A compound sentence has two or more complete ideas, each with its own subject and verb.

Activity A Write these compound sentences on your paper. Circle the complete subject in each independent clause. Underline the complete predicate in each independent clause.

- 1) They were hungry, but all of the restaurants were closed.
- 2) Alice has a cat, Mike has a gerbil, and Sandy has a hamster.
- **3)** Mr. Barry likes apples, but Mrs. Barry prefers pears and bananas.
- **4)** Lori plays the piano, and her sister plays the flute.
- **5)** Mrs. Castillo gives a lot of homework, but her tests are easy.

Activity B Number your paper from 1 to 10. Beside each number, write *S* if the sentence is simple. Write *C* if it is compound.

- 1) Andrea and Michelle signed up for the play.
- 2) He goes fishing every spring but has never caught the big one.
- 3) The telephone rang three times, and then it stopped.
- **4)** The girls hurried, but they were late anyway.
- **5)** After school, we came right home and did our homework.
- **6)** The driver stomped hard on the brakes, and the bus skidded.
- 7) I met Lydia at the corner, and we walked to school together.
- 8) My brother sold his car and bought a van.
- **9)** Kate and two of her friends signed up for swimming lessons, but the class was full.
- **10)** The Sunday newspaper has a section designed and written completely by teens.

Activity C Write five compound sentences. Be sure the ideas are related. Punctuate each sentence correctly.

Part A Number your paper from 1 to 6. Beside each number, write *S* if the sentence is simple. Write *C* if it is compound.

- 1) Paul plays on the basketball team and works part time at the grocery store.
- 2) He is an assistant manager in the deli.
- **3)** The store manager hired him as a bagger, but Paul wanted more responsibility.
- 4) After two months, Mr. Alvarez and Paul talked.
- 5) Mr. Alvarez offered Paul the job in the deli, and Paul accepted it.
- 6) It meant more responsibility, but it also meant a raise in pay.

Part B On your paper, write whether the words in bold in these sentences show a *compound subject*, *compound verb*, or *independent clauses*.

- Latisha called me after school and asked for help with her project.
- 2) I met her at the library, and we went over the assignment.
- 3) Most of the students in the class were writing research papers, but she made a different decision.
- 4) Latisha was designing and building a model city.
- 5) One of our teachers and several of our classmates were also at the library.
- 6) Andrea spotted us and came over to our table.
- 7) Andrea, Latisha, and I are in the same math class.
- 8) We walked to the bus stop together, but Andrea did not get on the bus with Latisha and me.
- 9) Andrea lives close to the library, so she walked home.
- 10) We waved good-bye and then got on the bus.

Chapter 10 Review

Part A For each item below, write *S* on your paper if the group of words is a sentence. If the group of words is not a sentence, copy it onto your paper and add words to make a complete sentence.

- 1) The ball landed in the field.
- 2) As usual, each of the boys on the team.
- 3) Practicing at four instead of three on Monday.
- 4) Because of some changes in the team.
- 5) How does it feel to have a winning record?

Part B Write the following sentences on your paper. Add the correct end marks. Beside each sentence, write its purpose (*Statement, Question, Command or Request, Strong Feeling*).

- 1) Listen to this
- 2) She laughed at his joke
- 3) That was so funny
- 4) Please tell that joke to LeeAnn
- 5) Are you really hoping to be a stand-up comic
- 6) How exciting that would be
- 7) Many people try but don't make it
- 8) Experience and talent are the key to success
- 9) Is there a school for stand-up comics
- 10) Find out about it

Part C Write each sentence on your paper. Underline the complete subject once and the complete predicate twice. Circle the simple subject and the verb or verb phrase. Remember that the simple subject and the verb can be compound.

- 1) The car sputtered and came to a stop.
- 2) What was that strange noise?
- 3) After a few seconds, the rattling noise stopped, too.
- 4) His parents and the man at the gas station had warned him about this.
- 5) Don't buy the car!
- 6) He did not take their advice and bought the car.
- 7) Some of his friends did not agree with his decision either.
- 8) At first, everything was fine.
- 9) Yesterday, he had driven all the way to Parker City without a problem.
- 10) Today was a different story.

Part D Write each sentence on your paper. Beside each sentence write whether it is *simple* or *compound*. Then underline the complete subject once and the complete predicate twice in each independent clause.

Example We drove to the lake on Sunday, and Maria's family came on Monday.—compound

- 1) Each summer, the two families vacation together.
- 2) All of them look forward to this vacation, and none of them would miss it.
- 3) The Dawsons live in the city, but the Ortegas live only a short drive from the lake.
- 4) Mrs. Ortega and Mrs. Dawson met in college, and they have remained friends since then.
- 5) Their children have known each other all their lives and get along well.

Test Taking Tip

If you know you will be asked to label parts of a sentence on an English test, write sample sentences. Then practice identifying sentence parts.