

Clauses and Complex Sentences

A clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb. A **dependent clause** begins with a word such as *because* or *when*. It cannot stand alone as a sentence. An **independent clause** can stand alone.

Dependent Clause when we saw Yosemite

Independent Clause It was a beautiful fall day.

A sentence made up of a dependent clause and an independent clause is a **complex sentence**. When the dependent clause comes first in the sentence, it is followed by a comma.

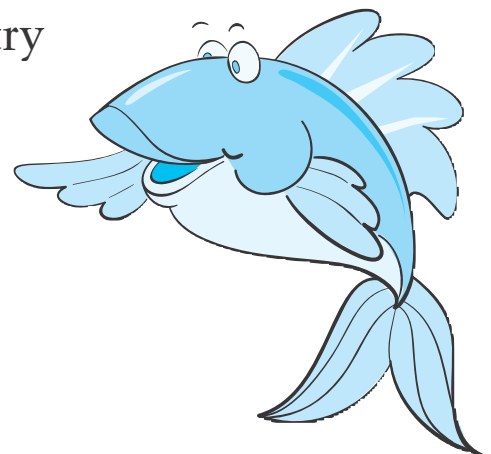
- When we saw Yosemite, it was a beautiful fall day.
- It was a beautiful fall day when we saw Yosemite.

A Write the dependent clause in each sentence.

1. We value our national parks because they are so wild.
2. Although people love cities, the wilderness is special.

Write the independent clause in each sentence.

3. Until a law was passed, our country had no national parks.
4. As you probably know, there are many parks today.



B Write the clause in the sentence that is named in ().
I stands for *independent* and *D* for *dependent*.

1. Since I last wrote, we've made big plans. (I)
2. After school gets out, Ted can take us camping. (D)
3. We'll go to Baxter State Park because it's really wild. (I)
4. If the weather is good, we can climb Mt. Katahdin. (D)
5. We won't plan our route until we've studied the map.
(D)
6. Before we go, we need to decide about food. (D)
7. Although the trip is just a week, we'll need many items. (I)
8. It will be hard work because we'll have heavy packs.
(D)
9. Ted won't take us on the trip unless we follow his orders. (I)
10. Let me know soon if you can come. (I)


C Combine each pair of simple sentences. Use the word in (). Write the complex sentence.

11. The weather was beautiful. We got to the park. (when)
12. We couldn't see the mountain. It was dark. (because)
13. We lit a fire. We found a campsite. (after)
14. Even burned oatmeal tastes good! You are hungry. (if)
15. We'll have a good breakfast. We leave tomorrow.
(before)

Test Preparation

 Write the letter of the independent clause in each group.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. A unless you want to freeze</p> <p>B when you pack</p> <p>C if you like hot food</p> <p>D carry matches with you</p> | <p>3. A I look forward to lunch</p> <p>B after we've walked a long way</p> <p>C when I'm camping</p> <p>D because I get really hungry</p> |
| <p>2. A because we started late</p> <p>B although we're very tired</p> <p>C we have a long way to go</p> <p>D since we got lost</p> | <p>4. A after we get home</p> <p>B unless they're really bad</p> <p>C I'll send you some photos</p> <p>D if you're interested</p> |

 Write the letter of the word that should introduce each dependent clause.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>5. ____ we can't light a fire, we'll eat sandwiches.</p> <p>A Or C Before</p> <p>B Since D But</p> | <p>7. I'm going to need a rest ____ we get to the summit.</p> <p>A since C and</p> <p>B because D after</p> |
| <p>6. The dog growls ____ she hears the coyotes howling.</p> <p>A although C or</p> <p>B when D but</p> | <p>8. ____ there's a tornado, we're going to make it!</p> <p>A Until C When</p> <p>B Since D Unless</p> |

Review

 Write *I* if the underlined group of words is an independent clause. Write *D* if it is a dependent clause.

1. When school is out, we will visit my uncle Bill.
2. Before he retired, he worked in New York City.
3. He moved to Vermont after he bought an old farm.
4. Although he's not a farmer, he loves life in Vermont.
5. We will stay all of August unless the weather's bad.
6. If there are mosquitoes, my mom will want to go home.
7. It's fun for me because Uncle Bill has a pond.
8. Once we went swimming as the full moon was rising.
9. Since my sister's only three, she can't swim yet.
10. I hope we can stay until school begins.

 Combine each pair of simple sentences. Use the word in (). Write the complex sentence.

11. Lou sat in the front. He had never been in a canoe.
(since)
12. We paddled upstream. We were tired. (until)
13. We stopped. We came to a good place for lunch.
(when)
14. The swimming was great. The water was cold.
(although)
15. We'll go as far as Lake Banyan. It begins to rain.
(unless)
16. Canoe trips are fun. The weather is good. (if)



Style



Too many short, simple sentences can make your writing dull and choppy. Create a smooth, flowing **style** by combining simple sentences to create compound or complex sentences.

Simple Sentences

We were tired. We wanted to reach the summit.

Compound Sentence

We were tired, but we wanted to reach the summit.

Complex Sentence

Although we were tired, we wanted to reach the summit.



Combine the two short, choppy sentences. Use the word in (). Write the compound or complex sentence.

1. It was three in the afternoon. We finally reached the summit. (when)
2. We were all hungry. We stopped for lunch. (and)

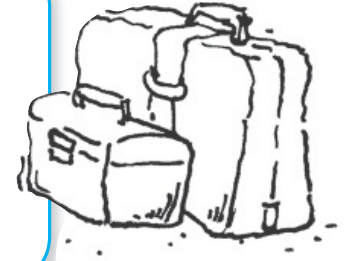


Write a short narrative about a place that you love to visit. Include at least one compound sentence and one complex sentence.



Writing for Tests

Prompt Think about a time when you took a trip—maybe for a vacation or a family visit. What experience stays in your mind? Write a narrative describing this event to a friend or family member.



Compound and complex sentences create a flowing style.

Author uses vivid words and images to recall interesting incidents.

Sentences vary in style and length.

Flying Solo

When I was six years old, I flew to New York City alone! I had been on an airplane only once before, and I was hopping up and down with excitement. A hostess held my hand as I waved goodbye to my mom and dad. She took me onto the plane and helped me fix the seat belt.

The plane roared when it took off. I tried to squeeze my armrest, but I grabbed the lady sitting next to me instead. She screamed! Later I spilled orange juice on her dress. I loved making my seat go backwards and forwards. After I did this for a while, the lady next to me found another place to sit.

My aunt met me at the airport. I stayed with her for two weeks, but I remember that flight best of all.