

Complex Sentence One Pager

A **complex sentence** is a sentence that contains at least one **independent clause (IC)** and at least one **dependent (or subordinate) clause (DC)**.

Example: Why she went golfing [during a lightning storm], I could not say.

An independent clause is the group of words containing a subject and a predicate that expresses a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence all by itself.

Example: I could not say.

A **dependent (or subordinate) clause** is the group of words containing a subject and a predicate but **does not** express a complete thought and could not stand alone as a sentence.

It “depends” upon an independent clause. Dependent clauses commonly begin with a subordinating conjunction.

Example: Why she went golfing [during a lightning storm].

COMMA USAGE

There are 3 basic patterns:

DC, Comma, IC

Example: After she went fishing, Mary walked home in the dark.

IC, DC (No Comma)

Example: Mary walked home in the dark after she went fishing.

IC1, DC, IC2 (Split with Commas)

Example: Mary, after she went fishing, walked home in the dark.

AVOID THE TRAP 1! Subordinating Conjunctions that are also Subjects

Some words function as both the subject and the subordinating conjunction.

Example: I ate the ice cream, which was dripping on my hand.

Here the word “which” is both the subject and a subordinating conjunction.

AVOID THE TRAP 2! Participial Phrases

Not all verb forms are going to automatically be predicates. Always check to see if the subject and the predicate match. Otherwise you may be dealing with a “verbal” that is part of a phrase.

For example: Walking into the bathroom, he tripped and fell.

The verbal “walking” is part of a participial phrase. “Tripped” and “fell” are the predicates because you would say “he tripped” and “he fell,” but you would not say “he walking” because the verb form doesn’t match with the subject. If it was “he was walking” walking could be a predicate, but the absence of the word “was” makes it a participial phrase.

Common Subordinating Conjunctions Bank

after, although, as, before, because, how, if, since, that, though, until, what, when, where, which, while, who, whom, whose, why

ONLINE STUDY GUIDES

https://youtu.be/CsrM_RpqXek

<https://youtu.be/EHNBjHXWLho>