



Lesson 46.

Complex sentences



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2020



What is a complex sentence?

Definition: A complex sentence is a sentence that contains an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence, but a dependent clause even though it has a subject and a verb cannot stand alone.

Examples when complex sentences consist of simple sentences of equal value that do not depend on one another:

I like the sports channel, but my brother prefers movies.

We overslept and the train left without us.

I saw hundreds of people on the streets, many of them looked familiar.

Complex sentences

Rules

Simple sentences in a compound sentence can be combined without a conjunction or with one of the following compositional conjunctions:

and

as well as

neither ... nor

but

not only ... but also



Example

She **not only** wrote the text **but also** researched the photographs

Complex sentences

Rules

In a complex sentence, when the constituent parts are unequal, one of the simple sentences explains the other.

A secondary, dependent clause is called a subordinate clause, and the main one in meaning is called the main one.

Such clauses are usually connected by subordinate conjunctions **that, if, after, because, who, whose, when, where:**

Nobody likes people who think they know everything.

But such clauses can be used without subordinate conjunctions:

I bought the book you had liked in the shop.



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Some examples

Who will become the next president is still unclear.

This wine is not what we used to drink in Greece.

Today our teacher told us how one writes a CV.

A lens is a piece of glass which refracts light.

After she returned from Paris, she looks depressed.



Complex sentences

Conditional sentences

Definition: Conditional sentences are statements discussing known factors or hypothetical situations and their consequences. Complete conditional sentences contain a conditional clause and the consequence.

The first type denotes real, enforceable conditions that may relate to the present or the future. In this case, the verb in the main clause is used in the future tense, and in the clause (conditions) - in the present.

For example:

If you are late again, I will have to fire you.

We will have a hike if the weather is fine.

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The second type covers unrealistic, unrealizable conditions related to the present or the future.

The main clause uses the auxiliary verb **should / would** and the infinitive of the verb without the particle **to**, and in the conditional clause - the past form of the verb to be in the subjunctive mood (**were** in all persons) or the Past Simple form of all other verbs:

For example:

If I were you I wouldn't poke my nose everywhere.

If Australia did not happen to be isolated from the rest of the world, it wouldn't possess such a unique fauna.

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The third type describes the unfulfilled conditions in the past.

The main clause uses the auxiliary verb should / would and the verb in Present Perfect tense, and the subordinate clause (conditions) uses a verb in the form of Past Perfect:

For example:

If you had gone to bed in time you wouldn't have overslept your interview.