PART 4: SIMPLE, COMPLEX, COMPOUND, AND COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES

So far, you have encountered only simple sentences (sentences with only one principal clause) and complex sentences (sentences with only one principal clause and one or more subordinate clauses). But sentences can have more than one principal clause.

SIMPLE SENTENCES
The car stopped on the street.

COMPLEX SENTENCES
The car stopped on the street when the traffic light turned red.

A sentence with more than one principal clause but no subordinate clauses is called a compound sentence. The principal clauses are joined together by co-ordinate conjunctions (and, but, or, yet, for, so, and nor). There is usually a comma before a co-ordinate conjunction that joins clauses.

COMPOUND SENTENCES
The car stopped on the street, and the little dog dashed in front of it.

Diagram the following sentences, underlining the principal clauses with a solid underline and the subordinate clauses with a double underline. Outline the subordinate conjunctions in pink, the co-ordinate conjunctions that join principal clauses in purple, bold the coordinate conjunctions that join words, and colour the coordinate conjunctions that join phrases orange. Write SIMPLE at the end of the simple sentences, COMPLEX at the end of the complex sentences, and COMPOUND at the end of the compound sentences. The answers follow.
1. Down the lane, past the house, and into the field ran the runaway horse.
2. Alberta is famous for the Calgary Stampede, but it is also known for its oil reserves.
3. When it started raining, they got soaked.
4. Motorists must be careful when they drive, because moose are often on the road.
5. Compare margarine, which is an edible oil, with butter, which is made from milk.
6. During the locomotive era, Canada built a railway across the continent.
7. Mr. Jones has a lot of books, and he is well informed about current events.
8. Taxation without representation was a common complaint two hundred years ago.
9. Before I was born, my mother worked as a receptionist.
10. Don’t tell me you can’t find your backpack!

ANSWERS
1. Down the lane, past the house, and into the field ran the runaway horse. SIMPLE
2. Alberta is famous for the Calgary Stampede, but it is also known for its oil reserves. COMPOUND
3. When it started raining, they got soaked. COMPLEX
4. Motorists must be careful when they drive, because moose are often on the road. COMPLEX
5. Compare margarine, which is an edible oil, with butter, which is made from milk. COMPLEX
6. During the locomotive era, Canada built a railway across the continent. SIMPLE
7. Mr. Jones has a lot of books, and he is well informed about current events. COMPOUND
8. Taxation without representation was a common complaint two hundred years ago. SIMPLE
9. Before I was born, my mother worked as a receptionist. COMPLEX
10. Don’t tell me (THAT) you can’t find your backpack! COMPLEX
**COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES**

Sentences with two or more principal clauses and one or more subordinate clauses are called compound-complex sentences. In the example sentence, the principal clauses are underlined with a **solid line**, while the subordinate clause is underlined with a **double line**. The coordinate conjunctions that join clauses are outlined in **PURPLE**, the coordinate conjunctions that join words are coloured **orange**, the coordinate conjunctions that join phrases are **bolded**, and the subordinate conjunctions are outlined in **pink**.

The weather seems fine now, **BUT** just wait until this afternoon **when** a tornado may strike.

Diagram the following compound-complex sentences, underlining the principal clauses with a **solid underline** and the subordinate clauses with a **double underline**. Outline or colour the conjunctions appropriately. The answers follow on the next page.

1. Go to the store and get some milk, as I must have your cake baked in time for the party.
2. Snowboarding looks like fun, but it requires a lot of practice which is boring or dangerous.
3. When you were renovating, did you hire contractors or did you do the work yourself?
4. She types better than I do, but she has not written me for several months.
5. The library book that I liked so much was overdue, and I **paid** the fine when I got some cash.
6. An old book is a new book until you have read it, and do not judge a book by its cover.
7. Mary and John like their teacher a lot, and they especially like her when she teaches art.
8. Although they used to be quite rare, wild turkeys are now common, and they are everywhere.
9. Because I went to a private school, I can diagram sentences and I must say I quite enjoy it.
10. Does Judith think she is a terrific dancer already, and is it true she plans to stop her lessons?
ANSWERS

1. Go to the store **AND** get some milk, **as** I must have your cake baked in time for the party.
2. Snowboarding looks like fun, **BUT** it requires a lot of practice **which** is boring **or** dangerous.
3. **When** you were renovating, did you hire contractors **OR** did you do the work yourself?
4. She types better **than** I do, **BUT** she has not written me for several months.
5. The library book **that** I liked so much was overdue, **AND** I paid the fine **when** I got some cash.
6. An old book is a new book **until** you have read it, **AND** do not judge a book by its cover.
7. Mary **and** John like their teacher a lot, **AND** they especially like her **when** she teaches art.
8. **Although** they used to be quite rare, wild turkeys are now common, **AND** they are everywhere.
9. **Because** I went to a private school, I can diagram sentences, **AND** I must say (THAT) I quite enjoy it.
10. Does Judith think (THAT) she is a terrific dancer already, **AND** is it true (THAT) she plans to stop her lessons?

The next exercise contains all four kinds of sentences. Diagram the sentences, underlining the principal clauses with a **solid underline** and the subordinate clauses with a **double underline**. Outline the coordinate conjunctions that join clauses in **purple**, bold the coordinate clauses that join words, colour the coordinate clauses that join phrases **orange**, and outline the subordinate clauses in **pink**. Write SIMPLE at the end of the simple sentences, COMPLEX at the end of the complex sentences, COMPOUND at the end of the compound sentences, and CC at the end of the compound-complex sentences. The answers follow.
1. During the era of steam locomotives, Canada built a railway across the continent.
2. Some people like action movies, but others prefer cartoons or sports shows.
3. My grandmother gives us milk and cookies when we visit her at her house.
4. Fighting is what some children do when they are bored, but Peter and Fred aren’t like that.
5. Oh no! My cell phone is ringing, and at the same time so is my landline.
6. Choosing between chocolate éclairs and banana splits is a dilemma to my children.
7. Don’t tell me you didn’t buy the things on the list, since I need them for your party.
8. Get your coat and put on your boots, as it’s cold and snowy tonight.
9. Did the dog bite the boy or did the boy bite the dog?
10. When Jane bought a treat for her dog, did she give it to him immediately or did she wait?

ANSWERS
1. During the era of steam locomotives, Canada built a railway across the continent. SIMPLE
2. Some people like action movies, BUT others prefer cartoons or sports shows. COMPOUND
3. My grandmother gives us milk and cookies when we visit her at her house. COMPLEX
4. Fighting is what some children do when they are bored, BUT Peter and Fred aren’t like that. CC
5. Oh no! My cell phone is ringing, AND at the same time so is my landline (RINGING). COMPOUND
6. Choosing between chocolate éclairs and banana splits is a dilemma to my children. SIMPLE
7. Don’t tell me THAT you didn’t buy the things on the list, since I need them for your party. COMPLEX
8. Get your coat AND put on your boots, as it’s cold and snowy tonight. CC
9. Did the dog bite the boy OR did the boy bite the dog? COMPOUND
10. When Jane bought a treat for her dog, did she give it to him immediately OR did she wait? CC
Colour in all of the rest of the parts of speech and put round brackets around the prepositional phrases. The answers are on the following page.

1. During the era of steam locomotives, Canada built a railway across the continent.
2. Some people like action movies, but others prefer cartoons or sports shows.
3. My grandmother gives us milk and cookies when we visit her at her house.
4. Fighting is what some children do when they are bored, but Peter and Fred aren’t like that.
5. Oh no! My cell phone is ringing, and at the same time so is my landline.
6. Choosing between chocolate éclairs and banana splits is a dilemma to my children.
7. Diane often wished (THAT) she had travelled more, and now it’s too late for her.
8. Don’t tell me (THAT) you didn’t buy the things on the list, since I need them for your party.
9. Grab your coat and get your boots, as it’s cold and snowy tonight.
10. Did the dog bite the boy or did the boy bite the dog?
11. When Jane bought a treat for her dog, did she give it to him immediately or did she wait?
ANSWERS

1. (During the era) (of steam locomotives), Canada built a railway (across the continent).
2. Some people like action movies, **BUT** others prefer cartoons or sports shows.
3. My grandmother gives us milk and cookies **when** we visit her (at her house).
4. Fighting is **what** some children do **when** they are bored, **BUT** Peter and Fred aren’t (ARE NOT) (like that).
5. Oh no! My cell phone is ringing, **AND** (at the same time) so is my landline (RINGING).
6. Choosing (between chocolate éclairs and banana splits) is a dilemma (to my children).
7. Diane often wished (THAT) she had travelled more, **AND** now it’s (IT IS) too late (for her).
8. (YOU) Don’t (DO NOT) tell me (THAT) you didn’t (DID NOT) buy the things (on the list), since I need them (for your party).
9. (YOU) Grab your coat **AND** (YOU) get your boots, as it’s (IT IS) cold and snowy tonight.
10. Did the dog bite the boy **OR** did the boy bite the dog?
11. **When** Jane bought a treat (for her dog), did she give it (to him) immediately or did she wait?

In the example sentence below, the subjects are underlined with a **wavy** underline, the verbs are underlined with a **solid** line, the direct object is underlined with a **broken underline**, the indirect object is underlined with a **dotted underline**, and the subjective complement is enclosed in a **box**.

When the pitcher threw the ball to the batter, the catcher fumbled the ball, and so the runner ran to first base, and the coach was thrilled.
Diagram these sentences in the same way as in the example sentence. The answers follow.

1. During the era of steam locomotives, Canada built a railway across the continent.
2. Some people like action movies, but others prefer cartoons or sports shows.
3. My grandmother gives us milk and cookies when we visit her at her house.
4. Fighting is what some children do when they are bored, but Peter and Fred aren’t like that.
5. Oh no! My cell phone is ringing, and at the same time so is my landline.
6. Choosing between chocolate éclairs and banana splits is a dilemma to my children.
7. Don’t tell me you didn’t buy the things on the list, since I need them for your party.
8. Grab your coat and get your boots, as it’s cold and snowy tonight.
9. Did the dog bite the boy or did the boy bite the dog?
10. When Jane bought a treat for her dog, did she give it to him immediately or did she wait?

ANSWERS

1. During the era of steam locomotives, Canada built a railway across the continent.
2. Some people like action movies, but others prefer cartoons or sports shows.
3. My grandmother gives us milk and cookies when we visit her at her house.
4. Fighting is what some children do when they are bored, but Peter isn’t like that.
5. Oh no! My cell phone is ringing, and at the same time so is my landline.
6. Choosing between chocolate éclairs and banana splits is a dilemma to my children.
7. (YOU) Don’t tell me (THAT) you didn’t buy the things on the list, since I need them for your party.
8. (YOU) Grab your coat and (YOU) get your boots, as it’s cold and snowy tonight.
9. Did the dog bite the boy or did the boy bite the dog?
10. When Jane bought a treat for her dog, did she give it to him immediately or did she wait?