Compound and Complex Sentences

A **simple sentence** expresses a complete thought. It has a subject and a predicate.

Satchel Paige was a great athlete.

A **compound sentence** contains two simple sentences joined by a comma and a conjunction such as *and, but,* or *or.*

Fans waited many hours to see him, but Satch never let them down.

A **complex sentence** contains an independent clause, which can stand alone, and a dependent clause, which cannot stand alone. The clauses are joined with a word such as *if, when, because, until, before, after,* or *since.* In the following sentence, the independent clause is underlined once; the dependent clause is underlined twice.

When the second baseman caught the ball, the Tigers made a double play.

- To make good compound sentences, join simple sentences that are related.
- Replace the end punctuation of the first sentence with a comma. Replace the capital letter at the beginning of the second sentence with a lowercase letter, unless the word is a proper noun or *I*.
- In a complex sentence, if the dependent clause comes first, set it off with a comma.

Directions Write *simple* if the sentence is a simple sentence. Write *compound* if it is a compound sentence. Write *complex* if it is a complex sentence.

1. Many Americans love the game of baseball. _____
2. When spring rolls around, they wait for the first games. _____
3. The bleachers of ballparks fill, and fans cheer their favorite teams. _____
4. If the weather is cold and rainy, they don't mind. _____
5. These fans live for the crack of the bat. _____
6. Since the baseball season is long, they will return to the bleachers many times. _____
7. A professional team plays more than a hundred games. _____
8. Uncle Randy is a Cardinals fan, but Aunt Jan likes the Cubs. _____
9. Some families are divided because they root for different teams. _____
10. The World Series is the grand prize of baseball. _____
11. The National League champion faces the American League champion. _____
12. They play a series of games until a winner is declared. _____
13. There can be as many as seven games, or there can be as few as four. _____
14. When one team wins four games, it wins the World Series. _____
15. The fans of that team celebrate for days. _____

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