

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.

simple
complex
compound
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