

## Complex Sentences

### Syllabus Links

**EN2-9B:** A student uses effective and accurate sentence structure, grammatical features, punctuation conventions and vocabulary relevant to the type of text when responding to and composing texts.

### Content:

- understand that the meaning of sentences can be enriched through the use of noun groups/phrases and verb groups/phrases and prepositional phrases

### Advice for Parents

Complex sentences can also be referred to as multi-clause sentences. A complex sentence is formed when you join a main clause and a subordinate clause with a connective. A subordinate clause is one that relies on a main clause to make sense. The connectives in complex sentences are subordinating conjunctions and they tell us about the order or the place in which things happened or specify a cause or effect relationship between events. Connectives used in complex sentences include after, although, as, because, if, since, unless, when.

Another way to improve in writing is by providing your child with appropriate books to read. Authors such as Morris Gleitzman, Rick Riordan and John Flanagan use complex sentences and other grammatical features in their stories which will greatly benefit their writing.

## Activities at Home

Here are some activities that you may want to try at home to help your child improve.

### Five Step Sentences

This task involves adding Who, What, Where and why to your sentences.

#### For Example

**Who?** My Black Cat.

**What is it doing?** My black cat laps milk.

**When?** At breakfast my black cat laps milk.

**Where?** At breakfast my black cat laps milk in the kitchen.

**Why?** At breakfast my black cat laps milk in the kitchen because he is hungry.

### The Hunt for the Great Sentence

In this task students should select a passage from the novel they are currently reading.

They are then to draw up a table with three columns for simple, complex and compound sentences.

As students read they are then to find what they think are perfect examples of these types of sentences.

#### For Example:

Simple	Complex	Compound
Father Wolf looked on amazed.	After the tornado hit, there was very little left standing.	It was getting dark, and we weren't there yet.

### Dressing up my Sentences

Have students choose a boring simple sentence. Have them set up a table as seen below: **The car is fast.**

Adjectives Describe	Noun Who or what?	Verb and Adverb What did they do? How did they do it?	Where? Where did this happen?
The red convertible	car	was driving at lighting speed	across the country side.

**The red convertible car was driving at lighting speed, across the country side.**

### Expanding Sentences

Using an A4 piece of paper have students fold it until you have four rectangles on your page. Give your child a short sentence and have them write it on the outside of their foldable. As they unfold they need to add something to each sentence.

The dog ran.

Add an **adjective** – The **cute** dog ran

Add and **Adverb** – The **cute** dog ran **quickly**.

**Where?** – The **cute** dog ran **quickly** across the backyard.

**Why?** – The **cute** dog ran **quickly** across the backyard after the cat.