

Lesson 6: Complex Sentences

LEARN

- You have learned about compound sentences. Compound sentences combine related ideas using a connecting word such as *and*, *but*, or *or*.

A **complex sentence** also combines related ideas. The ideas are joined by a **subordinating conjunction**. Look at the sentence below.

The canyon is wide **because** the river has eroded its walls.

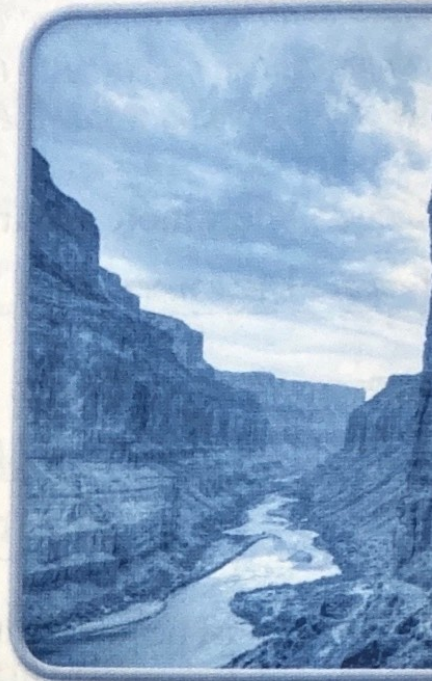
The subordinating conjunction *because* joins the two related ideas.

The following **subordinating conjunctions** are often used to connect related ideas.

Subordinating Conjunctions			
after	although	because	before
since	until	when	while

- The subordinating conjunction may come in the middle of the sentence. Plains are mostly flat **although** some have small hills.
- The subordinating conjunction may come at the beginning of the sentence. **Although** some have small hills, plains are mostly flat.

Notice that when the first idea in the sentence begins with a subordinating conjunction, a comma follows that idea.



PRACTICE

A Read each sentence. Write **complex** if the sentence is made up of two related ideas joined by a subordinating conjunction. Write **not complex** if it is not a complex sentence.

- After we made the last turn, we reached the mountain.
- We wanted to see the mountain because it is so majestic.
- A mountain is higher than the area around it.

complex

complex

not complex

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 4. The taller mountains reach into the colder layers of the atmosphere. | <u>not complex</u> |
| 5. Since the mountain slope is gentle, it is perfect for skiing. | <u>complex</u> |
| 6. Mountains take millions of years to form. | <u>not complex</u> |
| 7. A mountain can form when Earth's crust bends. | <u>complex</u> |
| 8. Unlike mountains the plains are low and flat. | <u>not complex</u> |
| 9. Because they are low-lying areas, plains can flood easily. | <u>complex</u> |
| 10. Plains may be surrounded by small hills or mountains. | <u>not complex</u> |

B *Read each complex sentence. Write the subordinating conjunction that joins the two related ideas. The first one is done for you.*

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. When an earthquake happens, you can take steps to be safe. | <u>When</u> |
| 2. You should take cover until the ground stops shaking. | <u>until</u> |
| 3. Since earthquakes sometimes happen under the ocean, you may see waves on the surface. | <u>Since</u> |
| 4. A tsunami can take place after an earthquake strikes. | <u>after</u> |
| 5. Some cities are prepared for an earthquake because they have had so many. | <u>because</u> |
| 6. Although some earthquakes are dangerous, most are not. | <u>Although</u> |
| 7. Scientists could study an earthquake better when they had the latest tools. | <u>when</u> |
| 8. Before an earthquake hits, some animals seem nervous. | <u>Before</u> |
| 9. We saw a wide crack in the ground while we were hiking. | <u>while</u> |
| 10. The ground cracked because parts of the earth had split apart. | <u>because</u> |

C Write a subordinating conjunction to complete each sentence. Choose a subordinating conjunction from the box, or use a subordinating conjunction of your own.

Remember



A **complex sentence** is formed by joining two related ideas with a subordinating conjunction.

after although because before
since until when while

Answers may vary. Suggested answers are given.

1. Thomas went to Costa Rica because he wanted to see a volcano.
2. Although I have read about volcanoes, I haven't seen one.
3. Thomas showed us his photographs after/when he returned from his trip.
4. Since/Because she is a park ranger at Denali National Park, Aunt Mary can tell us about glaciers.
5. Glaciers leave rocks behind while/after they move across the land.
6. Until/Before we traveled to Alaska last spring, I had never seen a glacier.
7. I read books about glaciers before/when we took our trip.
8. I saw one of these large sheets of ice when/after our plane landed.
9. I put on a heavy coat because/since it is cold on top of a glacier.
10. Although there once were many glaciers in America, there are few today.
11. Since/Because some glaciers contain a lot of air, they can look blue.
12. We heard loud noises when pieces of a glacier broke off.



WRITE



D Imagine a beautiful island that you want people to visit. Use the items below to create a persuasive article about the island. Be sure to use complete sentences. Check a dictionary if you need help spelling a word.

Answers will vary. Sample answers are given.



1. because the island is far away

Because the island is far away, you will travel by plane.

2. after you arrive

You will never want to leave after you arrive!

3. since so much water surrounds the island

Since so much water surrounds the island, you will have lots of beaches to visit.

4. when you are at the beach

Look for playful dolphins when you are at the beach.

5. although there is a volcano

Although there is a volcano, it is not active.

6. until you see the amazing flowers here

You haven't seen anything so pretty until you see the amazing flowers here.

7. while you are at the beach

Make sure you go snorkeling or diving while you are at the beach.

8. before you leave

Before you leave, take many pictures so you don't forget this beautiful island.

Proofreading Checklist

- Does each sentence use correct capitalization?
- Does each sentence that begins with a subordinating conjunction have a comma after the first idea?