Compound & Complex Sentences

40 Task Cards Plus Grammar Posters

By Classroom Core

• Grades 6–8
• Aligned to CCSS
• 40 Task Cards
• Storage Case Template
• 4 Grammar Posters
• Student Recording Sheet
• Instructions & Answer Key

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Compound & Complex Sentences: 40 Task Cards Plus Grammar Posters

Introduction

Grammar Busters activities enable students to tackle difficult elements of grammar through hands-on practice. In this set, students identify compound and complex sentences. They also practice finding subordinate conjunctions and relative pronouns, as well as dependent and independent clauses.

What’s Included?

• 40 task cards *(See page 9)*

Print out the task cards and posters. You may want to use cardstock or laminate the cards for extended durability. Students use the task cards for identifying compound and complex sentences plus their clauses and “joiners.” Students enjoy using the task cards with a partner or alone for instruction, class competitions, or review.

If desired, copy the recording sheets *(page 19)* for students to use.

*Teacher Tip:* Store your set of task cards with the build-your-own storage case template provided *(page 8)*. This is an organizational tool that you and your students will love!

*Teacher Tip:* You can project the PDF version of the task cards with a projector onto a white board while you use the task cards during whole class instruction.

• Posters *(See page 4)*

Print the four posters (Compound Sentences *(also included in previous set)*, Complex Sentences, Subordinating Conjunctions, and Compound vs. Complex) for your students, or post them on a wall or bulletin board for display.

• Answer Key for Task Cards *(See page 21)*

All answers are included. You can guide students as they participate, or they can brush up on their skills by checking their own work independently.
Common Core State Standards

Activities in Compound & Complex Sentences: 40 Task Cards Plus Grammar Posters address the following Common Core Standards:

Grade 6

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.3a:** Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/ listener interest, and style.

Grade 7

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1a:** Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1b:** Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.

Grade 8

- **Note:** According to CCSS guidelines, compound and complex sentences will likely need revisiting in grades 8 and beyond.

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Teacher Notes on this Activity: 

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Compound Sentences

A **compound sentence** contains two independent clauses usually joined by a comma and a conjunction. Compound sentences have no dependent (subordinate) clauses.

TIP: Use a semi-colon or a comma with a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS) to join two simple independent clauses.

\[
\begin{align*}
&\text{Alana} \ has \ an \ aggressive \ dog, \ and \ Dion \ owns \ a \ quiet \ cat. \\
&\text{I love} \ dogs, \ but \ my \ family \ has \ adopted \ two \ cats.
\end{align*}
\]
Complex Sentences

A complex sentence has one independent clause plus one or more subordinate (dependent) clauses joined by a subordinate conjunction or a relative pronoun.

A subordinate clause (dependent clause) begins with a subordinate conjunction or a relative pronoun and contains both subject and verb.

RELATIVE PRONOUNS:
- that
- which
- whoever
- whom
- whomever
- whose

Example:

I sometimes read books that are biographical.
Subordinating Conjunctions...

join a subordinate clause to a main clause

- after
- although
- as
- as if
- as long as
- as much as
- as soon as
- as though
- because
- before
- even if
- even though
- than
- that
- till
- though
- unless
- until
- when
- whenever
- where
- whereas
- wherever
- while

some common ones
**Compound or Complex?**

**Compound Sentences**
- Independent clause
- Coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS)
- Independent clause
- Compound sentence

**Complex Sentences**
- Independent clause
- Subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun
- Dependent clause
- Complex sentence

Both have an independent clause plus one other clause
Both have subjects and verbs in each clause
Both have “joiners” to connect the clauses

**Compound Sentences**
- I like to eat chocolate ice cream, **and** I love to eat vanilla cake.
- I exercise often, **so** I can eat more calories.

**Complex Sentences**
- My friend is upset **because there are so many calories**.
- My friend, **who works in a gym**, watches his calorie intake.
1. Print this page on heavy paper or cardstock. (You could also make the structure sturdy by printing it on regular paper and gluing the page to a file folder for reinforcement.)

2. Cut along outline, and then score or fold along dotted lines.

3. Fold flaps in and glue or tape in place. The case is large enough to store the 40 cards in this set when printed on cardstock or on standard paper and laminated.
1. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Although we have a new school, our classrooms are already crowded.

2. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Nikki won the game because she practiced hard to learn the strategies.

3. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Since I was old enough to read, I have read books at night before bed.

4. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

As he walked to the door, he felt the rain on his face.
5. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Shawn, who is the best baseball pitcher, is unable to play in the game today.

6. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Before I finish my homework, I will watch my favorite TV show.

7. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Because I am already hungry, I will eat dinner early.

8. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

When they see the results of the election, the students will be excited.
9. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

My favorite aunt, who lives in Arizona, is a published author of a best-selling book.

10. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

This activity is too difficult for me because I am not very tall.

11. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

After my parents came home, they saw the toys in the driveway.

12. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

If I study my Latin, I will understand Latin roots and prefixes.
13. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

For the rest of the day, we played in the playground, which is north of our school.

14. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

Although she was weary from running so long, the determined young girl crossed the finish line.

15. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

When he started using the study guide on a regular basis, he finally understood the material.

16. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

Since there are so many different answers, it is sometimes difficult to find the correct solution.
17. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

Pets will not always be happy if you do not feed them on time.

18. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

When they found out the price of the dresses, the girls decided not to buy them.

19. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

Cats, who have excellent night vision, can hunt their prey in the dark.

20. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

Jen and her friend who ate the chocolate cake developed painful upset stomachs.
21. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Kids often teased Sally when she told her stories.

a. compound  
b. complex

22. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Before finding the lost coins, the children looked everywhere in the backyard.

a. compound  
b. complex

23. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Several parents were upset because the school day was shortened.

a. compound  
b. complex

24. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Although they shared a common language, they had difficulty understanding each other.

a. compound  
b. complex
25. Determine if this sentence is a **compound sentence** or a **complex sentence**:

Lou and Zoe always stayed up late at night, yet they were awake early in the morning.

- a. compound
- b. complex

26. Determine if this sentence is a **compound sentence** or a **complex sentence**:

Cats and dogs can actually be good friends, yet they are often considered enemies.

- a. compound
- b. complex

27. Determine if this sentence is a **compound sentence** or a **complex sentence**:

Pop music can cheer up certain people, but my friend does not like it.

- a. compound
- b. complex

28. Determine if this sentence is a **compound sentence** or a **complex sentence**:

Although the sky darkened, there was no rain.

- a. compound
- b. complex
29. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:
Because the dog barked all night, the neighbors didn’t get any sleep.
 a. compound
 b. complex

30. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:
The school closed for the summer, but we attended summer school.
 a. compound
 b. complex

31. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:
Unless Shannon finds the right music, she will be unable to play in the concert.
 a. compound
 b. complex

32. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:
If you wash the dishes tonight, I will clean the kitchen tomorrow.
 a. compound
 b. complex
33. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Tyler is interested in becoming an engineer, so he will take high-level science classes.

a. compound
b. complex

34. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Jenny carefully filled the baskets with treats for the children, but she had trouble finding the right snacks.

a. compound
b. complex

35. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

The mascot, who represents our school basketball team, is extremely popular with the students.

a. compound
b. complex

36. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

The cheerleaders surrounded the team when they finished the cheer.

a. compound
b. complex
37. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

I love planting flowers in spring, and my friend enjoys harvesting her garden produce in fall.

a. compound
b. complex

38. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Upon the arrival of the guests, a singer, whose name was Miranda, made her way to the front of the group.

a. compound
b. complex

39. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

The concert was poorly attended since students were not allowed to go after midnight.

a. compound
b. complex

40. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Even though the dessert was served with ice cream, the boys did not like it.

a. compound
b. complex
Compound & Complex Sentences

Name: ____________________________________________

1. ______________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________

4. ______________________________________________

5. ______________________________________________

6. ______________________________________________

7. ______________________________________________

8. ______________________________________________

9. ______________________________________________

10. ______________________________________________

11. ______________________________________________

12. ______________________________________________

13. ______________________________________________

14. ______________________________________________

15. ______________________________________________

16. ______________________________________________

17. ______________________________________________

18. ______________________________________________

19. ______________________________________________

20. ______________________________________________
**Answer Key**

**Answers for task cards 1–10**  
*(Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence.)*

Independent clause: regular text  
Dependent clause: *italicized*

1. *Although we have a new school,* our classrooms are already crowded.  
2. Nikki won the game *because she practiced hard to learn the strategies.*  
3. *Since I was old enough to read,* I have read books at night before bed.  
4. *As he walked to the door,* he felt the rain on his face.  
5. Shawn, *who is the best baseball pitcher,* is unable to play in the game today.  
6. *Before I finish my homework,* I will watch my favorite TV show.  
7. *Because I am already hungry,* I will eat dinner early.  
8. *When they see the results of the election,* the students will be excited.  
10. This activity is too difficult for me *because I am not very tall.*

**Answers for task cards 11–20**  
*(Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence.)*

Dependent clause: *italicized*  
Subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun: *underlined*

11. *After my parents came home,* they saw the toys in the driveway.  
   Subordinate conjunction: after  
12. *If I study my Latin,* I will understand Latin roots and prefixes  
   Subordinate conjunction: if  
13. For the rest of the day, we played in the playground, *which is north of our school.*  
   Relative pronoun: which  
14. *Although she was weary from running so long,* the determined young girl crossed the finish line.  
   Subordinate conjunction: although
15. *When he started using the study guide on a regular basis,* he finally understood the material.  
Subordinate conjunction: *when*

16. *Since there are so many different answers,* it is sometimes difficult to find the correct solution.  
Subordinate conjunction: *since*

17. Pets will not always be happy *if you do not feed them on time.*  
Subordinate conjunction: *if*

18. *When they found out the price of the dresses,* the girls decided not to buy them.  
Subordinate conjunction: *when*

19. Cats, *who have excellent night vision,* can hunt their prey in the dark.  
Relative pronoun: *who*

20. Jen and her friend *who ate the chocolate cake* developed painful upset stomachs.  
Relative pronoun: *who*

**Answers for task cards 21–40**
*(Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence.)*

Dependent clause for complex sentences: *italicized*  
Correct multiple choice answer: *underlined*

21. Kids often teased Sally *when she told her stories.*  
a. compound  
b. complex

22. *Before finding the lost coins,* the children looked everywhere in the backyard.  
a. compound  
b. complex

23. Several parents were upset *because the school day was shortened.*  
a. compound  
b. complex

24. *Although they shared a common language,* they had difficulty understanding each other.  
a. compound  
b. complex

25. Lou and Zoe always stayed up late at night, yet they were awake early in the morning.  
a. compound  
b. complex

26. Cats and dogs can actually be good friends, yet they are often considered enemies.  
a. compound  
b. complex
27. Pop music can cheer up certain people, but my friend does not like it.
   a. compound  b. complex

28. Although the sky darkened, there was no rain.
   a. compound  b. complex

29. Because the dog barked all night, the neighbors didn’t get any sleep.
   a. compound  b. complex

30. The school closed for the summer, but we attended summer school.
   a. compound  b. complex

31. Unless Shannon finds the right music, she will be unable to play in the concert.
   a. compound  b. complex

32. If you wash the dishes tonight, I will clean the kitchen tomorrow.
   a. compound  b. complex

33. Tyler is interested in becoming an engineer, so he will take high-level science classes.
   a. compound  b. complex

34. Jenny carefully filled the baskets with treats for the children, but she had trouble finding the right snacks.
   a. compound  b. complex

35. The mascot, who represents our school basketball team, is extremely popular with the students.
   a. compound  b. complex

36. The cheerleaders surrounded the team when they finished the cheer.
   a. compound  b. complex

37. I love planting flowers in spring, and my sister enjoys harvesting her garden produce in fall.
   a. compound  b. complex

38. Upon the arrival of the guests, a singer, whose name was Miranda, made her way to the front of the group.
   a. compound  b. complex

39. The concert was poorly attended since students were not allowed to go after midnight.
   a. compound  b. complex

40. Even though the dessert was served with ice cream, the boys did not like it.
   a. compound  b. complex