



Sentence-building

Simple sentences can be made longer by adding **clauses**. A **compound sentence** consists of two or more clauses of equal importance. A **complex sentence** consists of one or more main clauses and another clause that needs the others to make complete sense.

Jack heard a strange noise. (**simple sentence** – one clause)

Jack heard a strange noise, and we were scared. (**compound sentence** – two simple sentences joined by **and** to make two equally important clauses)

Jack heard a strange noise, and we were scared when he told us about it. (**complex sentence** – there is a third clause, which needs the others to make complete sense.)

Build these **simple sentences** into **compound sentences** by adding a clause of equal importance. The first one has been done for you.

Remember: A **clause** is a group of words that includes a verb.

The dog barked.



The dog barked, but we didn't hear anything.

The rain fell.



She ran across the park.



The computer crashed.



Now build your **compound sentences** into **complex sentences** by adding another clause.

The dog barked, but we didn't hear anything because the television was too loud.



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On this page your child learns how sentences can be made longer by the addition of clauses. Check that your child understands the examples on this page, particularly the point that every clause must contain a verb.