

Compound & Complex Sentences

B1

Grammar Reference

Compound sentences join two equal ideas with a coordinating conjunction.

Sentence 1 + and / but / so / or + Sentence 2

Complex sentences have a main clause and a subordinate clause joined by a subordinating conjunction.

Main clause + connector + Subordinate clause

Connector	Use	Example
and	adds information	I like coffee and she likes tea.
but	shows contrast	I studied hard but I failed.
so	shows result	It was raining, so we stayed inside.
because	gives a reason	I left early because I was tired.
although	shows contrast/surprise	Although it was cold, we went out.
when	refers to a time	I felt nervous when I gave my talk.
while	two things at once	She studied while I cooked.
if	states a condition	If you practise, you will improve.
unless	except if / only if not	You will fail unless you study.

■ **Comma rule:** When the subordinate clause comes first, use a comma: *Although it was cold, we went out.*

Exercise 1: Sentence Transformation

Rewrite each sentence using the connector given. Do not change the meaning.

Question 1

I was tired, but I finished all my work.

Rewrite using: **Although**

Model: Although I was tired, I finished all my work.

Question 2

She studied for weeks. However, she failed the exam.

Rewrite using: **even though**

Model: Even though she studied for weeks, she failed the exam.

Question 3

Although it was cold, we decided to go for a walk.

Rewrite using: **despite**

Model: Despite the cold, we decided to go for a walk.

Question 4

He missed the job because he arrived late to the interview.

Rewrite using: **so**

Model: He arrived late to the interview, so he missed the job.

Question 5

She felt nervous, but she gave an excellent presentation.

Rewrite using: **In spite of**

Model: In spite of feeling nervous, she gave an excellent presentation.

Question 6

We stayed inside because the weather was terrible.

Rewrite using: **due to**

Model: Due to the terrible weather, we stayed inside.

Question 7

Although he had very little experience, he impressed everyone.

Rewrite using: **Despite**

Model: Despite having very little experience, he impressed everyone.

Exercise 2: Error Identification

Each sentence has one error. Circle the wrong word and select the correct reason.

Question 1

I was tired, so ~~that~~ I went to bed. → **"That" is redundant — "so" connects the result clause directly.**

Question 2

Although ~~but~~ it was raining, we went for a walk. → **"But" is redundant — "although" already shows contrast.**

Question 3

She left early ~~of~~ because she had an appointment. → **"Of" should be removed — "because" takes a clause, not "because of + clause".**

Question 4

He studied hard, so ~~but~~ he passed the exam. → **"But" contradicts "so" — they cannot both appear. Remove "but".**

Question 5

Unless ~~if~~ you hurry, you will miss the bus. → **"If" is redundant — "unless" already means "if not". Remove "if".**

Question 6

She listened to music while ~~when~~ she was cooking. → **"When" is redundant — "while" already shows simultaneous actions.**

Question 7

I enjoy swimming, ~~or~~ my brother prefers cycling. → **"Or" shows an alternative, not contrast. Use "but" instead.**

Exercise 3: Gap Fill

Choose the correct connector: **although / because / but / if / so / unless / when / while**

Question 1

She was exhausted, but she kept working.

Question 2

We took an umbrella because it was forecast to rain.

Question 3

Although he was nervous, he gave a great speech.

Question 4

I read a book while I was waiting for the train.

Question 5

You will miss the flight unless you leave now.

Question 6

The restaurant was full, so we went somewhere else.

Question 7

If you feel unwell, you should see a doctor.

Question 8

He enjoys painting while his wife prefers sculpture.

Exercise 4: Matching

Match each sentence beginning (1–8) with the correct ending (a–h).

Sentence beginning	Ending
1. I was hungry, → a	a) but I hate long flights.
2. She goes running every morning → b	b) because his train was cancelled.
3. He missed the meeting → c	c) just ask a colleague.
4. If you need help, → d	d) so I made a sandwich.
5. They spoke quietly → e	e) although the weather is often bad.
6. I enjoy travelling, → f	f) while the baby was sleeping.
7. You will fail the course → g	g) unless you submit your assignments.
8. When the lesson finished, → h	h) the students left quickly.

Key: 1 → a 2 → b 3 → c 4 → d 5 → e 6 → f 7 → g 8 → h

Exercise 5: Sentence Sort

Write **C** (Compound) or **X** (Complex/Adverbial) next to each sentence.

1. I was tired, so I went to bed. **[C]**
2. You can pay by card or use cash. **[C]**
3. Unless you hurry, you will miss the bus. **[X]**

4. The food was expensive but very delicious. [C]
 5. I will call you when I arrive. [X]
 6. She likes tea but he prefers coffee. [C]
 7. He studied hard, so he passed the exam. [C]
 8. Although it was raining, we went for a walk. [X]
 9. While I was cooking, he set the table. [X]
 10. She felt nervous because it was her first day. [X]
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Exercise 7: Paragraph Gap Fill

Read each paragraph and choose the connector that best fits the meaning and flow of the whole text.

Passage 1

Maria had always wanted to study medicine. However, her exam results were not strong enough to get into the course she wanted. She considered her options carefully. Although she was disappointed, she decided to study nursing instead. This turned out to be a good decision — despite working long hours, she found the job extremely rewarding. Although her colleagues had more formal qualifications, Maria was quickly recognised as one of the most dedicated members of the team.

Passage 2

Learning a new language takes time and effort. If you practise every day, you will make progress faster. Many learners give up because they find it too difficult. However, research shows that even thirty minutes of daily practice makes a significant difference. You do not need to attend expensive classes — although studying at home can be very effective if you use the right resources.

ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

Exercise 1: Sentence Transformation (model answers)

1. Although I was tired, I finished all my work.
2. Even though she studied for weeks, she failed the exam.
3. Despite the cold, we decided to go for a walk.
4. He arrived late to the interview, so he missed the job.
5. In spite of feeling nervous, she gave an excellent presentation.
6. Due to the terrible weather, we stayed inside.
7. Despite having very little experience, he impressed everyone.

Exercise 2: Error Identification

1. "that" — redundant after "so"
2. "but" — redundant after "although"
3. "of" — remove: "because" takes a clause directly
4. "but" — contradicts "so"; remove "but"
5. "if" — redundant after "unless"
6. "when" — redundant after "while"
7. "or" — should be "but" to show contrast

Exercise 3: Gap Fill

1. but 2. because 3. Although 4. while
5. unless 6. so 7. If 8. while

Exercise 5: Sentence Sort

I was tired, so I went to bed. [C]

Although it was raining, we went for a walk. [X]

She likes tea but he prefers coffee. [C]

I will call you when I arrive. [X]

He studied hard, so he passed the exam. [C]

Unless you hurry, you will miss the bus. [X]

You can pay by card or use cash. [C]

She felt nervous because it was her first day. [X]

The food was expensive but very delicious. [C]

While I was cooking, he set the table. [X]

Exercise 7: Paragraph Gap Fill

Passage 1: [1] However [2] Although [3] despite [4] Although

Passage 2: [1] If [2] because [3] However [4] although