

■ ■ Grammar Spy™ — Sentence Structure Mini-Missions

Warm-Up Activities · Intermediate Level · 5–10 Minutes Each · © Grammar Spy

Quick Reference:

Simple sentence = 1 independent clause (one subject + one predicate).

Compound sentence = 2+ independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) or a semicolon.

Complex sentence = 1 independent clause + 1 or more dependent clauses (introduced by subordinating conjunctions like because, although, when, if, while, since, after, before).

Mini-Mission 1: Classify the Sentence Type

Directions: Read each sentence. Write *Simple*, *Compound*, or *Complex* on the line.

1. The rain stopped, and the sun came out.
2. Although she was tired, she finished the assignment.
3. The students worked quietly at their desks.
4. He wanted to go outside, but it was raining heavily.
5. Because the alarm rang late, the whole class missed the announcement.
6. My brother plays guitar.

7. She studied hard; she earned the highest score.
8. When the bell rings, everyone must return to their seats.

Mini-Mission 2: Combine into Compound Sentences

Directions: Join each pair of simple sentences into one compound sentence using an appropriate FANBOYS conjunction.

1. The library was closed. We went to the café instead.
2. She loves math. She struggles with word problems.
3. He didn't study for the test. He still passed.
4. We can take the bus. We can walk to school.

Mini-Mission 3: Build Complex Sentences

Directions: Add a dependent clause to each independent clause using the subordinating conjunction provided.

1. (Because) , the match was postponed.
2. She waited at the station (until) .
3. (Although) , he volunteered for the extra project.
4. The dog barked loudly (whenever) .
5. (If) , we will celebrate after school.

Mini-Mission 4: Fix the Fragments & Run-Ons

Directions: Each item contains a sentence error. Identify it as a *fragment* or *run-on*, then rewrite it correctly.

1. Because she forgot her homework. → Type:
2. The movie was exciting it lasted three hours. → Type:
3. Running through the park on a sunny afternoon. → Type:
4. I like pizza my sister prefers pasta we ordered both. → Type:

■ **Spy Tip:** A fragment is missing a subject, a verb, or a complete thought. A run-on sentence has two or more independent clauses that are not properly connected. Fix run-ons by adding punctuation, conjunctions, or splitting into separate sentences.

Mini-Mission 5: Sentence Upgrade Challenge

Directions: Rewrite each simple sentence as (a) a compound sentence and (b) a complex sentence.

1. **Simple:** The team won the game.

Compound: **Complex:**

2. **Simple:** She finished her homework early.

Compound: **Complex:**