Compound-Complex Sentences

40 Task Cards Plus Grammar Posters

By Classroom Core

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

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Introduction

Grammar Busters activities enable students to tackle difficult elements of grammar through hands-on practice. In this set, students enhance their understanding of sentence structure by identifying clauses in complex-compound sentences; students also classify types of sentences as compound, complex, or compound-complex.

What’s Included?

• 40 task cards (See page 8)

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 18) for students to use.

Teacher Tip: Store your set of task cards with the build-your-own storage case template provided (page 7). 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 three posters (Compound-Complex Sentences, Independent Clause or Dependent Clause, and At-a-Glance) for your students, or post them on a wall or bulletin board for display.

• Answer Key for Task Cards (See page 20)

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-complex sentences will likely need revisiting in grades 8 and beyond.

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Teacher Notes on this Activity:
A compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent (subordinate) clause.

*Before summer vacation begins, we plan our activities, and we update the calendar.*

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSES**

**DEPENDENT CLAUSE**
Independent Clause or Dependent Clause?

An **independent clause** (also called a simple sentence) contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. Simple sentences have no dependent clauses.

A **dependent clause** (also called a subordinate clause) begins with a subordinate conjunction (*after, as, before, when, since, etc.*) or a relative pronoun (*which, who, that, etc.*) and contains both a subject and a verb.

**My friend** has a beautiful fish.

**Although** my friend has a beautiful fish, she would also love to have a cat.

My friend, **who has a beautiful fish**, would love to have a cat.
**Compound Sentence**
Two **independent clauses** joined by a coordinating conjunction (*FANBOYS*)

*I have an energetic dog,*  **but**  *my friend has a lazy cat.*

**Complex Sentence**
One **independent clause** plus one or more **dependent (subordinate) clauses**
formed by a subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun

*While*  *my friend likes his rather lazy cat,*  *I prefer my energetic dog.*

**Compound-Complex Sentence**
Two or more **independent clauses** and at least one **dependent (subordinate) clause**

*My friend has a lazy cat,*  **yet**  *he would like to get a dog that could provide companionship for his cat.*
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. Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence:
Since they had so much fun at the party, Shay and Jason stayed late, but they were tired in the morning.

2. Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence:
After the dance began, we found our friends in the other room, and we invited them to stay with us.

3. Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence:
The friends, who often play in the yard, are outside, but they will soon come into the house.

4. Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence:
When we go to the library, I will read for an hour, and you can relax.
5. Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence:

Although I love strawberries and oranges, my sister will not eat fruit, and she loves cake.

7. Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence:

Before she slept at night, she read a book, and she finished all of her homework.

6. Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence:

Unless they read several books, Sherry and Alia may not have enough information for research, and they will not be able to write their papers.

8. Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence:

Although she was a new driver, Veronica drove through heavy traffic in Chicago, yet she remained calm.
9. Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence:

My friend, who loves to play the violin, practices often, and she is a wonderful musician.

10. Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence:

The package, which was sitting on the porch, arrived during our lunch hour, or it came early in the morning.

11. Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence:

Although I love shopping for clothes, I have stayed away from the mall, and I am saving my money.

12. Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence:

The food that I served was delicious, and everyone ate plenty of it.
13. Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence:

Before my friend cooked the meal, Joelle and Allen shopped at the supermarket near our house, and they bought five bags of groceries.

14. Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence:

My friend Sheila is a vegetarian, so we serve meatless entrées and desserts whenever she comes for dinner.

15. Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence:

Antonio and Rachel, who are friends, went to the mall yesterday, but they did not buy anything.

16. Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence:

Because our science class is challenging, Miguel and Tony studied for the test for a whole hour; and they both achieved high scores.
17. Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence:

Francesca, who attained a perfect score, found a more challenging book to read, so she shared it with the class.

18. Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence:

Because Juan does not like dancing, he rarely attends school dances or parties, yet he is quite popular at school.

19. Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence:

It took a long time, but we found the perfect sweater for Miguel, who loves to wear bright colors.

20. Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence:

Luis and Martha, who are siblings, both decided to take swimming lessons, and they became excellent swimmers.
21. Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses:

Although I enjoy playing games, I did not like the new video game, so I read a book for an hour.
   a. complex
   b. compound-complex

22. Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses:

When my friends came to my house, we watched movies and ate popcorn.
   a. complex
   b. compound-complex

23. Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses:

This homework is too difficult for me because I don’t understand the background information.
   a. complex
   b. compound-complex

24. Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses:

Since it was a long weekend, we went to a party, and we also found time to shop.
   a. complex
   b. compound-complex
25. Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses:
Because we attended summer school, we did not join the baseball team, yet we still had plenty of time to swim.
   a. complex
   b. compound-complex

26. Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses:
My friends went to the party after they finished their work.
   a. complex
   b. compound-complex

27. Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses:
When the school year is almost over, we review grammar, and we write a note for the incoming classes.
   a. complex
   b. compound-complex

28. Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses:
As soon as Caroline walked outside, dark clouds formed, and the wind blew strong and sharp against her face.
   a. complex
   b. compound-complex
29. Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses:

Joey, who is one of the best spellers in the class, missed a tricky word in one of the first rounds of the spelling bee.

a. complex
b. compound-complex

30. Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses:

Before he placed first in the forensics competition, Sean rewrote parts of his speech, and he practiced in front of several different audiences.

a. complex
b. compound-complex

c. compound-complex

31. Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex:

Because we were already tired, we didn’t go to the game.

a. compound
b. complex
c. compound-complex

32. Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex:

I find it relaxing to listen to quiet music after school, and I often wear headphones while I am studying.

a. compound
b. complex
c. compound-complex
33. Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex:

Preeta found the crumpled paper in the garbage, but she knew it should have been saved.

a. compound
b. complex
c. compound-complex

34. Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex:

My favorite cousin, who competes in marathons, lives in Seattle.

a. compound
b. complex
c. compound-complex

35. Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex:

The birds were singing, but it was incredibly cold outside for spring.

a. compound
b. complex
c. compound-complex

36. Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex:

Pack your bags, and we will be on our way to British Columbia for a vacation.

a. compound
b. complex
c. compound-complex
37. Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex:
   If only they could see the results of their hard work, they would be so pleased with their progress.
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-complex

38. Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex:
   Even though she was exhausted, Maria listened quietly to her friend’s story, and she thought carefully before speaking.
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-complex

39. Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex:
   Max was worried when he realized his friend was not there.
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-complex

40. Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex:
   Although all her friends encouraged her, Alice decided not to compete in the race.
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-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**
*(Find the dependent clause in the compound-complex sentence.)*

Dependent clause: underlined

1. Since they had so much fun at the party, Shay and Jason stayed late, but they were tired in the morning.
2. After the dance began, we found our friends in the other room, and we invited them to stay with us.
3. The friends, who often play in the yard, are outside, but they will soon come into the house.
4. When we go to the library, I will read for an hour, and you can relax.
5. Although I love strawberries and oranges, my sister will not eat fruit, and she loves cake.
6. Unless they read several books, Sherry and Alia may not have enough information for research, and they will not be able to write their papers.
7. Before she slept at night, she read a book, and she finished all of her homework.
8. Although she was a new driver, Veronica drove through heavy traffic in Chicago, yet she remained calm.
9. My friend, who loves to play the violin, practices often, and she is a wonderful musician.
10. The package, which was sitting on the porch, arrived during our lunch hour, or it came early in the morning.

**Answers for task cards 11–20**
*(Identify the independent clauses in the compound-complex sentence.)*

Independent clauses: italicized

11. Although I love shopping for clothes, I have stayed away from the mall, and I am saving my money.
12. *The food* that I served was delicious, and everyone ate plenty of it. *Note: Independent clause is split: The food was delicious*
13. Before my friend cooked the meal, *Joelle and Allen shopped at the supermarket near our house,* and *they bought five bags of groceries.*

14. *My friend Sheila is a vegetarian,* so *we serve meatless entrées and desserts* whenever she comes for dinner.

15. *Antonio and Rachel,* who are friends, *went to the mall yesterday,* but *they did not buy anything.*
   *Note: Independent clause is split: Antonio and Rachel went to the mall yesterday*

16. Because our science class is challenging, *Miguel and Tony studied for the test for a whole hour,* and *they both achieved high scores.*

17. *Francesca,* who attained a perfect score, *found a more challenging book to read,* so *she shared it with the class.*
   *Note: Independent clause is split: Francesca found a more challenging book to read*

18. Because Juan does not like dancing, *he rarely attends school dances or parties,* yet *he is quite popular at school.*

19. *It took a long time,* but *we found the perfect sweater for Miguel,* who loves to wear bright colors.

20. *Luis and Martha,* who are siblings, *both decided to take swimming lessons,* and *they became excellent swimmers.*
   *Note: Independent clause is split: Luis and Martha both decided to take swimming lessons*

**Answers for task cards 21–30**
*(Classify the sentence as complex or compound-complex. Identify the clauses.)*

Dependent clause: **underlined**
Independent clauses: **italicized**
Correct multiple choice answer: **underlined**

21. *Although I enjoy playing games,* *I did not like the new video game,* so *I read a book for an hour.*
   a. complex b. compound-complex

22. *When my friends came to my house,* *we watched movies and ate popcorn.*
   a. complex b. compound-complex

23. *This homework is too difficult for me* because I don’t understand the background information.
   a. complex b. compound-complex
24. Since it was a long weekend, we went to a party, and we also found time to shop.
a. complex  b. compound-complex

25. Because we attended summer school, we did not join the baseball team, yet we still had plenty of time to swim.
a. complex  b. compound-complex

26. My friends went to the party after they finished their work.
a. complex  b. compound-complex

27. When the school year is almost over, we review grammar, and we write a note for the incoming classes.
a. complex  b. compound-complex

28. As soon as Caroline walked outside, dark clouds formed, and the wind blew strong and sharp against her face.
a. complex  b. compound-complex

29. Joey, who is one of the best spellers in the class, missed a tricky word in one of the first rounds of the spelling bee.
a. complex  b. compound-complex
Note: Independent is clause split: Joey missed a tricky word in one of the first rounds of the spelling bee.

30. Before he placed first in the forensics competition, Sean rewrote parts of his speech, and he practiced in front of several different audiences.
a. complex  b. compound-complex

Answers for task cards 31–40
(Classify the sentence as compound, complex, or compound-complex.)
Correct multiple choice answer: underlined
To enhance student understanding, dependent clauses are underlined and independent clauses are in italics

31. Because we were already tired, we didn’t go to the game.
a. compound  b. complex  c. compound-complex

32. I find it relaxing to listen to quiet music after school, and I often wear headphones while I am studying.
a. compound  b. complex  c. compound-complex

33. Preeta found the crumpled paper in the garbage, but she knew it should have been saved.
a. compound  b. complex  c. compound-complex
34. **My favorite cousin, who competes in marathons, lives in Seattle.**
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-complex  
   *Note: Independent clause is split: My favorite cousin lives in Seattle.*

35. **The birds were singing, but it was incredibly cold outside for spring.**
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-complex  

36. **Pack your bags, and we will be on our way to British Columbia for a vacation.**
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-complex  

37. **If only they could see the results of their hard work, they would be so pleased with their progress.**
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-complex  

38. Even though she was exhausted, Maria listened quietly to her friend's story, and she thought carefully before speaking.
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-complex  

39. **Max was worried when he realized his friend was not there.**
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-complex  

40. **Although all her friends encouraged her, Alice decided not to compete in the race.**
   a. compound  
   b. complex  
   c. compound-complex