

Spot the Complex Sentences

A complex or multi-clause sentence is made up of a main clause and then one or more dependent clauses.

There are two ways of creating dependent clauses:

- by using a subordinating conjunction (e.g. after) to create a subordinate clause, e.g. **The horse galloped after it jumped the fence.**
- by adding extra information using a relative clause that starts with a relative pronoun or relative adverb (e.g. who), e.g. **Mr Richardson, who was feeling ravenous, ate some cheese.**

1. Fish have gills because they need to breathe underwater.	Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?
Explanation:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. After we have eaten dinner, we are going to take a stroll along the beach.	Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?
Explanation:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. The elephant trumpeted at the top of its lungs, which made everyone jump.	Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?
Explanation:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Martha's passport had expired so she needed to get a new one before her holiday.	Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?
Explanation:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

5. Carrie lives on Green Lane in Haversham.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation:

Yes

No

6. The moonlight shone down.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation:

Yes

No

7. Leon hurriedly completed his homework and he handed it to his teacher.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation:

Yes

No

8. Henry, who is in my class, is an expert at times tables.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation:

Yes

No

9. I always order a cheeseburger when we go to fast food shop.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation:

Yes

No

Challenge

Invent your own complex (multi-clause) sentence:

Sentence:

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation:

Yes

No

Spot the Complex Sentences Answers

1. Fish have gills because they need to breathe underwater.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it uses the subordinating conjunction 'because' to create a subordinate clause.

Yes
No

2. After we have eaten dinner, we are going to take a stroll along the beach.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it uses the subordinating conjunction 'After' to create a subordinate clause before the main clause.

Yes
No

3. The elephant trumpeted at the top of its lungs, which made everyone jump.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it uses the relative pronoun 'which' to create a relative clause.

Yes
No

4. Martha's passport had expired so she needed to get a new one before her holiday.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is not a complex (multi-clause) sentence – this is a compound sentence that uses 'so' as a co-ordinating conjunction.

Yes
No

5. Carrie lives on Green Lane in Haversham.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is not a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it is just a simple (single) clause sentence as 'in Haversham' is just a prepositional phrase.

Yes
No

6. The moonlight shone down.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is not a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it is just a simple (single) clause sentence.

Yes
No

7. Leon hurriedly completed his homework and he handed it to his teacher.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is not a complex (multi-clause) sentence – this is a compound sentence that uses 'and' as a co-ordinating conjunction.

Yes
No

8. Henry, who is in my class, is an expert at times tables.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it uses the relative pronoun 'who' to create an embedded relative clause.

Yes
No

9. I always order a cheeseburger when we go to fast food shop.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it uses the subordinating conjunction 'when' to create a subordinate clause.

Yes
No

Challenge

Invent your own complex (multi-clause) sentence:

Sentence:

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: Pupil's own responses.

Yes
No

Spot the Complex (Multi-Clause) Sentences

A complex or multi-clause sentence is made up of a main clause and then one or more dependent clauses.

There are two ways of creating dependent clauses:

- by using a subordinating conjunction (e.g. after) to create a subordinate clause, e.g. **The horse galloped after it jumped the fence.**
- by adding extra information using a relative clause that starts with a relative pronoun or relative adverb (e.g. who), e.g. **Mr Richardson, who was feeling ravenous, ate some cheese.**

1. Fish have gills because they need to breathe underwater.	Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?
Explanation:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. After dinner, we are going to take a stroll along the beach.	Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?
Explanation:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. The elephant trumpeted at the top of its lungs, which made everyone jump.	Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?
Explanation:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Martha's passport had expired so she needed to get a new one before her holiday.	Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?
Explanation:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<p>5. If my little sister behaves, she is allowed to go to the cinema tomorrow.</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>6. The moonlight shone down on the town.</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>7. Before school, Leon hurriedly completed his homework.</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>8. The tree that is in our garden has blown down in the strong winds.</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>9. Spaghetti Bolognese is my favourite food although I also adore sausage casserole.</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Challenge

Invent your own complex (multi-clause) sentence:

<p>Sentence:</p> <p>Explanation:</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Spot the Complex (Multi-Clause) Sentences **Answers**

<p>1. Fish have gills because they need to breathe underwater.</p> <p>Explanation: It is a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it uses the subordinating conjunction ‘because’ to create a subordinate clause.</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>2. After dinner, we are going to take a stroll along the beach.</p> <p>Explanation: It is not a complex (multi-clause) sentence – ‘After dinner’ is just a prepositional phrase here as it has no verb to make it a subordinate clause.</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>3. The elephant trumpeted at the top of its lungs, which made everyone jump.</p> <p>Explanation: It is a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it uses the relative pronoun ‘which’ to create a relative clause.</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>4. Martha’s passport had expired so she needed to get a new one before her holiday.</p> <p>Explanation: It is not a complex (multi-clause) sentence – this is a compound sentence that uses ‘so’ as a co-ordinating conjunction.</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5. If my little sister behaves, she is allowed to go to the cinema tomorrow.</p> <p>Explanation: It is a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it uses the subordinating conjunction ‘If’ to create a subordinate clause before the main clause.</p>	<p>Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

6. The moonlight shone down on the town.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is not a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it is just a simple (single) clause sentence as ‘down on the town’ is just a prepositional phrase.

Yes
No

7. Before school, Leon hurriedly completed his homework.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is not a complex (multi-clause) sentence – ‘Before school’ is just a prepositional phrase here as it has no verb to make it a subordinate clause.

Yes
No

8. The tree that is in our garden has blown down in the strong winds.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it uses the relative pronoun ‘that’ to create a restrictive relative clause.

Yes
No

9. Spaghetti Bolognese is my favourite food although I also adore sausage casserole.

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation: It is a complex (multi-clause) sentence – it uses the subordinating conjunction ‘although’ to create a subordinate clause after the main clause.

Yes
No

Challenge

Invent your own complex (multi-clause) sentence:

Sentence:

Is it a complex (multi-clause) sentence?

Explanation:

Yes
No