Complex Sentence Structure (STEM)  

Lesson Plan

Aim: To support students in their understanding and practice of complex sentence structure.

Time: 90 minutes & homework task.

Lesson Suggestion

Lead in

- Distribute worksheet 1. Students read the sentences and identify the issue.
- Feedback: nominate a student to answer. Just that they’re incomplete is adequate at this stage, but you may wish to see if they can complete the sentences at the end of worksheet 4.

Guided Practice

- Students complete tasks 2 & 3: identifying independent and dependent clauses.
- Feedback: distribute or project worksheet 1 task 2 & 3 ANSWERS. Explain that complex sentence structure needs to consist of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.
- Students complete task 4: identifying types of complex sentence structure.
- Feedback: distribute or project worksheet 1 task 4 ANSWERS.
- Option 1: higher level students work through all the guided practice tasks on worksheets 2-4 in pairs.
- Feedback: distribute, project or go through worksheets 2-4 ANSWERS.
- Option 2: lower level students complete each individual task in pairs or small groups.
- Feedback: distribute, project or go through each individual task before students move on to the next task.
- Distribute or project worksheet 5. Students complete task 1: gap fill paragraph.
- Feedback: distribute, project or go through worksheet 5 ANSWERS.

Freer Practice

- Students complete task 2: paragraph writing activity.
- Feedback option 1: teachers take in and mark. Use our error correction code: https://www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction.
- Feedback option 2: Students do peer feedback. Use the included checklist.

Homework

- Students find an article related to their area of study. They read through and highlight some of the complex sentences, copy the new language into their vocabulary books and incorporate them into their next piece of writing (Remind them to paraphrase the content though).
- Students choose a topic connected to their studies and write a paragraph paying careful attention to their use of complex sentence structures.

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Worksheet 1: Complex Sentence Structure

Task 1
- Look at the three clauses below and discuss with your partner what the issue is.

i. Although structural engineers rely on geometries to design buildings.
ii. Because _______ _______ _______ _______ different places.
iii. Equilateral and isosceles which are types of triangles.

Task 2
- Match the two types of clauses to their meanings, and then decide which one connects to the three clauses in the previous exercise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clause</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Dependent</td>
<td>A. This clause _______ _______ _______ _______ is a complete sentence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Independent</td>
<td>B. This clause _______ _______ _______ _______ and cannot stand alone in a sentence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 3
- Match the two types of clauses to their examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clause</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Dependent</td>
<td>A. Which involves _______ _______ _______ _______ and structures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Independent</td>
<td>B. The chemical DNA was first discovered in 1869.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 4
- There are three types of complex sentence structure. Can you match each type to their examples?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Adverbial</td>
<td>A. SUKI AI which is a clinical voice assistant can support medical professions with diagnosis and admin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Adjective</td>
<td>B. Those _______ _______ _______ _______ will increase by 21%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. Noun</td>
<td>C. Provided _______ _______ _______ _______ will continue to trade.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Worksheet 2: Adverbial Clauses

Task 1

The following subordinate conjunctions are used to form adverbial clauses. Categorize them according to their functions, and then compare with a partner when you’ve finished.

*when *where *after *since *while *such + noun *before *
*as *once *whenever *the *as if *everywhere
*as though *just as *in order that *so + adverb/ *even *
*by the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Conjunction</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Conjunction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reason</td>
<td></td>
<td>Time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Concession</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 2

Select the most appropriate subordinate conjunction in the following sentences.

i. As/while 200 zettabytes of data will be stored worldwide by 2025, there is a real threat of our personal information ending up in the wrong hands.
ii. Bats always ____________________________ a cave.
iii. The number of IoT platforms has doubled since/after Amazon ____________________________.
iv. ____________________________/because the moon does not orbit the earth in a perfect circle.
v. Although/as soon as elephants are ____________________________.

Task 3

Complete the gaps in the sentences with a subordinate conjunction from task 1.

i. ____________________________ more employees are sharing more data remotely, the number of security spots have increased.
ii. ____________________________ offshore ____________________________ the much higher wind speed can generate more energy.
iii. ____________________________ the layers of ____________________________ each other, it becomes a superconductor.
iv. ____________________________ the plastic is collected, ____________________________, and melted into pellets for resale.
v. Mould grows ____________________________.
Task 4

- Complete the following sentences in a way that is logical.

i. When a star runs out of nuclear fuel, ____________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________

ii. Shredded __________________________________ because __________________________________
     ___________________________________________________________________________

iii. As __________________________________ 760°C, __________________________________
     ___________________________________________________________________________

iv. Lithium batteries have become __________________________________ devices that
     ___________________________________________________________________________

v. Even if it __________________________________ from polyurethane laminate
    ___________________________________________________________________________

Language Focus

Adverbial clauses are dependent clauses and are connected to an independent clause to form a complex sentence. Either the dependent or independent clause can come first in the sentence, but a comma must be used to separate the clauses if the dependent adverbial clause is fronted.

Examples

Independent → dependent

⇒ Global warming will continue to rise until methane emissions are halved.
⇒ An aircraft moves upward just as its wings force the air downwards.
⇒ Hailstones fall to the ground when the current of rising air slows down.

Dependent → independent

⇒ Because blockchains require computers all over the world to solve complex equations, experts are worried that it consumes immense amounts of electricity.
⇒ Although both dogs and cats have excellent overall vision, dogs are able to see more movements peripherally.
⇒ As soon as a bullet makes contact with the laminates used in bulletproof glass, its energy begins to dissipate.
Worksheet 3: Adjective (Relative) Clauses

Task 1
• There are five relative pronouns in English. Do you know what they are? Tell your partner.

Task 2
• There are two types of adjective clauses. Can you match each type with its explanation and example?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective Clause</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Defining relative clause</td>
<td>A. [ ] the noun. No commas are needed.</td>
<td>X. Al is predicted to reduce 22%, which would save a for all parties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Non-defining relative clause</td>
<td>B. [ ] This is not necessary to identify information. Commas are needed.</td>
<td>Y. Banks which offer all the as virtual banks, branch-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 3
• Reorder the words to make defining relative clauses.

i. can save the user much money which allows homeowners to control appliances, lighting and other devices from their phone a smart home.

ii. are more at risk of people enough calcium developing osteoporosis.

iii. to publicly report UK companies employees by law and with an annual turnover of £36m.

iv. whose levels of PM2.5 are located in India.
v. were not warned of pregnant pregnant thalidomide who were prescribed.

Task 4
• Add a non-defining relative clause to the following sentences.

i. Machine-to-machine (M2M) technology will enable sensors to monitor patients’ health on their return home from hospital.

ii. Apple AirTags are items.

iii. Local fishermen boats instead.

iv. Binder 3D printing.

v. Nigeria has twenty years.
Worksheet 4: Noun Clauses

Task 1
- There are three types of noun clauses. Can you match each type with its example?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun Clause</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. That clauses</td>
<td>A. Researchers have described how a new bacterium can feed on plastic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Wh-clauses</td>
<td>B. Genetic to colonize Mars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. If clauses</td>
<td>C. Scientists heat by 2070.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 2
- Select the best option in the sentences below to make noun clauses.

i. Scientists have explained if/how edible water bottles work.
ii. Researchers have shown that/what six months after their diagnosis.
iii. Biologists have recently discovered why/which closest primate relatives.
iv. Adults are more susceptible to a stroke why/if they are
v. sense when/where someone is about to have an epileptic seizure.

Task 3
- Complete the gaps in the following sentences to make noun clauses.

i. It is not known nuclear power can solve the climate crisis completely.
ii. A recent the most diverse species in the Mediterranean.
iii. It has been suggested there is a behaviours in autistic children.
iv. determined factors are likely to lead to another pandemic.
v. predict you are.

Task 4
- Identify the errors in the noun clauses. They may not all be incorrect.

i. Biohackers believe how human beings can increase their life expectancy.
ii. Plant species wilt and die increases.
iii. The draining of a hundreds of people.
iv. Nutritionists at the University of Westminster have revealed how pink-coloured drinks can
v. Solar panel technicians have been able to.
Worksheet 5: Complex Sentence Structure

Task 1
• Complete the gaps in the following paragraph with words from the box. Compare with your partner when you’ve finished.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>if</th>
<th>whose</th>
<th>that</th>
<th>although</th>
<th>in which</th>
<th>which</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Types of economies
It is generally believed __________ there are four types of economies. __________ commonly lie in where these economies exist and the impacts they have. In places __________ strongly-held __________ in agriculture or farming, whereas in a command economy, __________ is often found amongst __________ in favour of a __________. A mixed economy combines a command system with a market one. This is a system __________ laws are shaped __________ and __________ consumers, business and governments. __________ a mixed system theoretically combines the advantages of __________, it is __________ choice globally. However, this could change __________ the market has too much freedom or if the __________ control.

Task 2
• Write a paragraph on __________. Try and use as many complex sentences as you can.

Task 3
• Swap paragraphs with a partner. Use the checklist below to give your partner some feedback.

Has your partner...? | Yes / No / Not Sure
--- | ---
written a well-organised paragraph? | |
written clearly and concisely? | |
included adverbial clauses? | |
included adjective clauses? | |
included noun clauses? | |
made any significant language errors? | |

Task 4
• Make any necessary changes to your paragraph and then compare yours with the suggested model answer. How will you improve next time?
Homework

Task 1
• Find an XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX. Read through and highlight some of the complex sentences. Copy the new language into your XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX of writing. Don’t forget to paraphrase though.

Task 2
• Select a topic from your subject and write a short, concise paragraph paying particular attention to your complex sentence structure.
Complex Sentence Structure ANSWERS

Worksheet 1

Task 1

The three clauses are incomplete. These are the completed sentences:

i. Although structural engineers rely on geometries to design buildings, **2D and 3D triangles are used the most as they are the strongest.**

ii. **Equilateral triangles are most commonly used** because they apply compression and tension in different places.

iii. Equilateral and isosceles which are types of triangles are used to build bridges.

Task 2

| i.  | B | ii. | A |

The three clauses in the previous exercise are dependent clauses, so therefore they cannot stand alone in a sentence.

ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...