

Complex Sentence Structure (STEM) EXAMPLE

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**.
- **Option¹**: 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**.
- **Option²**: 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 option¹**: teachers take in and mark. Use our error correction code: <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/error-correction>.
- **Feedback option²**: 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.

Copyright: These materials are photocopiable but please leave all logos and web addresses on handouts. **Please don't post these materials onto the web.** Thank you

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 [redacted] 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.

	Clause		Meaning
i.	Dependent clause	A.	This clause [redacted] is a complete sentence.
ii.	Independent clause	B.	This clause [redacted] and cannot stand alone in a sentence.

i.		ii.	
----	--	-----	--

Task 3

- Match the two types of clauses to their examples.

	Clause		Example
i.	Dependent clause	A.	Which involves [redacted] and structures.
ii.	Independent clause	B.	The chemical DNA was first discovered in 1869.

i.		ii.	
----	--	-----	--

Task 4

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

	Type		Example
i.	Adverbial clause	A.	SUKI AI which is a clinical voice assistant can support medical professions with diagnosis and admin.
ii.	Adjective clause	B.	Those [redacted] will increase by 21%.
iii.	Noun clause	C.	Provided [redacted] will continue to trade.

i.		ii.		iii.	
----	--	-----	--	------	--

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 * [] *wherever * the [] *as if *everywhere
 *as though *just as * [] *in order that * [] *so + adverb/ [] *even [] *
 [] *by the []

Function	Conjunction	Function	Conjunction
Reason		Time	
[]		Place	
Purpose		[]	
[]		Concession	

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.

WWW.ACADEMIC-ENGLISHUK.COM

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.

Copyright: WWW.ACADEMIC-ENGLISHUK.COM

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?

	Adjective Clause		Explanation		Example
i.	Defining relative clause	A.	_____ the noun. No commas are needed.	X.	AI is predicted to reduce _____ 22%, which would save a _____ for all parties.
ii.	Non-defining relative clause	B.	This is not necessary to identify _____ information. Commas are needed.	Y.	Banks which offer all the _____ as virtual banks, branch-_____

i.			ii.		
----	--	--	-----	--	--

Task 3

- Reorder the words to make defining relative clauses.
 - can save the user much money which allows homeowners to control appliances, lighting and other devices from their phone a smart home.

 - are more at risk of people _____ enough calcium developing osteoporosis.

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

 - whose levels of PM2.5 _____ are located in India.

- v. were not warned of pregnant [redacted] 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 [redacted] items.

- iii. Local fishermen [redacted] boats instead.

- iv. Binder 3D [redacted] printing.

- v. Nigeria has [redacted] twenty years.

Worksheet 4: Noun Clauses

Task 1

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

	Noun Clause		Example
i.	That clauses	A.	Researchers have described how a new bacterium can feed on plastic.
ii.	Wh-clauses	B.	Genetic _____ to colonize Mars.
iii.	If clauses	C.	Scientists _____ heat by 2070.

i.		ii.		iii.	
----	--	-----	--	------	--

Task 2

- Select the best option in the sentences below to make noun clauses.
 - Scientists have explained if/how edible water bottles work.
 - Researchers have shown that/what _____ six months after their diagnosis.
 - Biologists have recently discovered why/which _____ closest primate relatives.
 - Adults are more susceptible to a stroke why/if they are _____
 - _____ sense when/where someone is about to have an epileptic seizure.

Task 3

- Complete the gaps in the following sentences to make noun clauses.
 - It is not known _____ nuclear power can solve the climate crisis completely.
 - A recent _____ the most diverse species in the Mediterranean.
 - It has been suggested _____ there is a _____ behaviours in autistic children.
 - _____ determined _____ factors are likely to lead to another pandemic.
 - _____ predict _____ you are _____.

Task 4

- Identify the errors in the noun clauses. They may not all be incorrect.
 - Biohackers believe how human beings can increase their life expectancy.
 - Plant species wilt and die _____ increases.
 - The draining of a _____ hundreds of people.
 - Nutritionists at the University of Westminster have revealed how pink-coloured drinks can _____.
 - 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.

if	whose	that	although	in which	which	as
----	-------	------	----------	----------	-------	----

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 [REDACTED]. Read through and highlight some of the complex sentences. Copy the new language into your [REDACTED] 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.	<i>B</i>	ii.	<i>A</i>
----	----------	-----	----------

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...