



Lesson 1

Edit for Correct Use of Complex Sentences

6.10(D) Edit drafts using standard English conventions, including:
(i) complete complex sentences with subject-verb agreement and avoidance of splices, run-ons, and fragments.



Introduction

What I Am Going to Learn

- Use and understand independent and subordinate clauses.
- Join clauses to make complex sentences.
- Create complex sentences with subject-verb agreement.
- Write complex sentences without comma splices, run-ons, or fragments.

What I May Already Know 5.11(D)(i)

- I know how to write complete simple and compound sentences with subject-verb agreement.
- I know how to avoid comma splices, run-ons, and fragments.

Understand the TEKS

What Is a Complex Sentence?

A **complex sentence** has one **independent clause** and at least one **subordinate clause**.

Simple sentences have one independent clause. An independent clause has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought. It can stand alone as a sentence.

Independent Clause: Kendra did not go for a bike ride.

A subordinate clause also has a subject and verb. However, a subordinate clause does not present a complete thought and cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Subordinate Clause: Because it was raining.

To create a complex sentence, join the independent and subordinate (dependent) clauses together.

Complex sentence: Kendra did not go for a bike ride because it was raining.

If a sentence begins with a dependent clause, it may need a comma.

Because it was raining, Kendra did not go for a bike ride.

By combining an independent clause with a subordinate clause, a writer can show how two ideas are related. In this case, the subordinate clause explains *why*. Why did Kendra not ride her bike?

Words to Know

- complex sentence
- independent clause
- subordinate clause
- subordinating conjunction

Tips and Tricks

When the subordinate clause follows the independent clause, no comma is needed.

If the subordinate clause is at the beginning of a sentence, it needs a comma at the end of the clause.

Subordinate clauses can also explain *how*, *where*, or *when*.

Suppose you wrote the following sentences: *My father is a teacher. He teaches math.* You might want to combine the two sentences to show how the two ideas are related. To join the two sentences, you need to use a connecting word or **subordinating conjunction**.

Subordinating conjunctions are words that introduce the dependent clause. Here is a list of some common subordinating conjunctions.

Common Subordinating Conjunctions				
after	because	once	until	which
although	before	since	when	while
as	if	unless	where	who

Now write a complex sentence using the two sentences above and one of the subordinating conjunctions from the chart.

Whether you are writing simple, compound, or complex sentences, make sure they have agreement. Also, watch out for run-on sentences, comma splices, and fragments.

Subject-Verb Agreement

Verbs must agree in number with their subjects. If the subject is singular, use a singular verb. If the subject is plural, use a plural verb.

Singular: The dog runs after the squirrel.

Plural: The dogs run after the squirrel.

Remember, a compound subject (two or more people or things) is plural and needs a plural verb.

Armando and Nick (like, likes) playing basketball.

Which verb is correct?

Explain why it is correct.

What Is a Run-On Sentence?

When you combine two sentences to show the relationship between ideas, always remember to use a coordinating conjunction and a comma. If you leave those out, the two ideas run into each other.

Run-on: We went to the bookstore it was closed.

Revised: We went to the bookstore, but it was closed.

What Is a Comma Splice?

A comma splice happens when you use a comma to separate two independent clauses in a sentence.

Comma splice: We went to the bookstore, it was closed.

Revised: We went to the bookstore. It was closed.

What Is a Sentence Fragment?

Remember that a complete sentence must have a subject and a verb and express a complete thought. Sentence fragments are groups of words that are missing a subject, a verb, or both.

Fragment: After the game.

Revised: We walked home after the game.



Guided Instruction

Read the passage below. Then answer the questions in the margin and complete the activities.

The Amazing Eclipse

(1) One of the most amazing things you'll ever see in the sky

^{is}are an eclipse. (2) Eclipses don't happen very often when they do,^{but}

everybody wants to watch. (3) It's not every day that you see the

moon or the sun vanish before your eyes!

(4) People throughout history have wondered what eclipses

mean. (5) In ancient China, some people thought a dragon had

swallowed up the sun. (6) The Ancient Greeks thought eclipses were

messages from the gods. (7) We now know more about the sun and

the moon. (8) Science can tell us what an eclipse really is.

Guided Questions

Why did the writer make a change to sentence 1?

Why did the writer add a comma and a conjunction to sentence 2?

Use a subordinating conjunction to combine sentences 7 and 8.

(9) There are two main types of eclipses: a solar eclipse and a lunar eclipse. (10) A solar eclipse happens when the moon moves between Earth and the sun and blocks the light. (11) Everything gets dark, because Earth is in the moon's shadow. (12) During a solar eclipse, you can see parts of the sun you couldn't see normally because the light is too bright. (13) You can see the outer rings of light, they are called the corona. (14) You can see splashes of red called plumes. (15) Even during a solar eclipse, however, you shouldn't stare straight at the sun.

(16) A lunar eclipse is when the moon disappears. (17) During a lunar eclipse, Earth moves between the sun and the moon. (18) Earth is in the way, so the sun's rays can't get to the moon to makes it bright. (19) In fact, the moon is in Earth's shadow.

(20) Sometimes the sun and moon are not completely blocked out during eclipses. (21) You might still be able to see a part of them. (22) These are called partial eclipses. (23) They might happen

Guided Questions

Why did the writer remove the comma in sentence 11?

What is the error in sentence 13?

Circle the error in subject-verb agreement sentence 18.

What is the independent clause in sentence 23?

because the sun, Earth, and the moon aren't quite lined up or

because the moon might be too far away to totally block out the sun.

(24) It's not easy to see eclipses. (25) You have to stand in the

right place and look at just the right time. (26) They last only a short time.

(27) If you do see one, you won't be disappointed by this strange sight.

Guided Questions

Use a subordinating conjunction to combine sentences 25 and 26.

Critical Thinking



- 1. Write a complex sentence about your hobby or favorite activity. Circle the subordinating conjunction.



- 2. Work with a partner to write two sentences that include the same subordinating conjunction. One sentence should use the subordinating conjunction at the beginning of the sentence, and the other sentence should use the subordinating conjunction after the independent clause.



- 3. Underline the subordinate clause in the complex sentence below. Then explain why the writer used a subordinate clause.

The next afternoon, Michelle felt inspired when she saw clear skies.

Quick Write Write a short paragraph that describes a sunset you have experienced—on the beach, at a lake, in the mountains, or somewhere special. Include at least two complex sentences in your description.

The Writer's Craft In a small group, select a descriptive paragraph from a magazine or an article from the internet. Find sentences that you can combine to create complex sentences.

How Am I Doing?

★ What questions do you have?

★ How do complex sentences help make your writing more interesting?

★ Fill in the circle that shows how you are doing with the skill.

I am stuck.

I almost have it.

I understand the skill.



Independent Practice

★ Practice

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Gabby wrote this narrative about a day she spent at the beach with her family. Read over her narrative and look for any revisions she needs to make, including problems with complex sentences. Then answer the questions that follow.



The Best Day

(1) The best day ever didn't start out any different than any other summer day. (2) I woke up early and turned on the TV, while I waited for everyone else to get up. (3) It was a Saturday, I didn't know what plans my parents had made for the day. (4) I wasn't expecting anything out of the ordinary.

(5) Before my mom woke up, I asked her what we were going to do. (6) She said that we were going to bring my baby brother to the beach for the first time.

(7) When we arrived at the beach, I set myself down on a towel under the umbrella. (8) Then my mom just plopped my baby brother right onto the sand beside me. (9) My mom told me to go play with him. (10) He was crawling around in the sand.

(11) I handed him a toy shovel and watched him try to figure out what to do with it. (12) Since he looked at it, he stuck it in the sand. (13) He pulled it out of the sand and looked at the now empty shovel again. (14) He gave up and crawled around some more. (15) All of a

sudden, he picked up a fist full of sand and ate it before anyone could stop him. (16) He looked at our startled faces and laughed. (17) It was the funniest thing I had ever seen. (18) I realized then that I was actually having a good time.

(19) He saw us, my other brother decided to join. (20) We were trying to help our baby brother builds a sand castle. (21) He still didn't understand the purpose of a shovel. (22) We filled the sand pails for him and turned them over to make perfect sand turrets. (23) It turned out that his idea of building a sand castle had more to do with demolition.

(24) At the end of the day, we ran up and down the beach. (25) The waves rushed up to splash us.

SAMPLE

- 1 What change should be made to sentence 3?
- A Change **was** to **were**
 - B Insert **and** after the comma
 - C Remove the comma
 - D Change **made** to **make**
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- 2 What change is needed in sentence 5?
- F Change **Before** to **Because**
 - G Change **Before** after **Since**
 - H Change **Before** to **When**
 - J Change **Before** to **While**
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- 3 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 17?
- A Change **was** to **were**
 - B Change **had** to **has**
 - C Change **seen** to **sees**
 - D No change is needed.
- 4 What is the correct way to write sentence 19?
- F While he saw us, my older brother decided to join.
 - G While he saw us my older brother decided to join.
 - H After he saw us, my older brother decided to join.
 - J After he saw us my older brother decided to join.
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- 5 Which complex sentence correctly combines sentences 21 and 22?
- A When he still didn't understand the purpose of a shovel, we filled the sand pails for him, and turned them over to make perfect sand turrets.
 - B He still didn't understand the purpose of a shovel, we filled the sand pails for him, and turned them over to make perfect sand turrets.
 - C He still didn't understand the purpose of a shovel, we filled the sand pails for him and turned them over to make perfect sand turrets.
 - D Since he still didn't understand the purpose of a shovel, we filled the sand pails for him and turned them over to make perfect sand turrets.

★ **Assessment**

Choose the best answer to each question.

- 1 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?
- A Change **When** to **Because**
 - B Remove the comma after **beach**
 - C Change **beach, I** to **beach, before I**
 - D No change is needed.
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- 2 What change is needed in sentence 20?
- F Change **were** to **are**
 - G Change **were** to **was**
 - H Change **builds** to **build**
 - J Change **builds** to **built**
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- 3 What is the correct way to write sentence 2?
- A I woke up early and turned on the TV while I waited for everyone else to get up.
 - B I woke up early and turned on the TV while I waited for everyone else to gets up.
 - C I woke up early, and turned on the TV, while I waited for everyone else to gets up.
 - D I woke up early, and turned on the TV, while I waited for everyone else to get up.
- 4 What is the correct way to combine sentences 9 and 10?
- F When my mom told me to go play with him he was crawling around in the sand.
 - G Although my mom told me to go play with him, he was crawling around in the sand.
 - H My mom told me to go play with him because he was crawling around in the sand.
 - J My mom told me to go play with him, if he was crawling around in the sand.
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- 5 Which complex sentence correctly combines sentences 24 and 25?
- A At the end of the day, we ran up and down the beach, the waves rushed up to splash us.
 - B At the end of the day, we ran up and down the beach the waves rushed to splash us.
 - C At the end of the day, we ran up and down the beach as the waves rushed to splash us.
 - D At the end of the day, we ran up and down the beach, as the waves rushed to splash us.



Exit Ticket

Now you have learned about editing drafts to create complex sentences. Let’s make a real-world connection. Norma is interested in becoming a marine biologist. She wrote these sentences about marine life and her love of the ocean. Help Norma make her writing more interesting by combining each set of sentences to one complete complex sentence. Feel free to change or delete some words.



1. I learned how to snorkel. I was amazed at all the life underwater.
2. Some fish are multi-colored and harmless. Others are colorless and quite dangerous.
3. Did you know that dolphins make clicking noises? They make noises when they are playing.
4. Sea turtles are not afraid of people. They let me get close to them.
5. I decided to become a marine biologist. I love sea animals.
