



Lesson 1

Edit for Correct Use of Complex Sentences

7.10(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.
- Complete and create complex sentences with subject-verb agreement.
- Write sentences without comma splices, run-ons, and fragments.

What I May Already Know 6.10(D)(i)

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

Understand the TEKS

A **complex sentence** has one **independent clause** and one or more **subordinate clauses**.

An independent clause is a group of words with a subject and verb that can stand alone as a complete sentence. A subordinate clause does not express a complete thought. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Subordinate clauses are either adjective clauses or adverb clauses. Subordinate clauses in complex sentences may start with the words *who, whose, which, that, after, as, because, if, since, or when*.

Example: I saw Brian, who is John's cousin, at the baseball game.

Note: The underlined words are a subordinate adjective clause describing Brian.

Complex sentences result when other more sophisticated devices are used to join clauses. This means a subordinate (dependent) clause is joined with a main (or independent) clause.

There are three main ways to join clauses to make complex sentences.

Relative pronouns – that, which, who, whose

Conjunctions (subordinating) – while, because, although, as, when, until, unless, through, by, since, whenever, if, where, before, etc.

Verb structures (non-finite) – (participle) verb forms that end in *-ing* or *-ed* or an infinitive verb form such as *to go, to become, and to see*

Words to Know

- complex sentence
- independent clause
- subordinate clause
- compound sentence

Think About It

Two or more sentences joined together are known as a *compound sentence*. The simple sentences can be joined with a comma and a conjunction. You can also use a semicolon to join these sentences.

A **compound sentence** joins two independent clauses together, separated by a semicolon. If you separated each clause, each would stand on its own as a sentence. A semicolon is a sophisticated form of punctuation. When you use a semicolon to separate two independent clauses, the two sides of the semicolon are generally related in subject.

Here is an example.

The Environmental Protection Agency has put many animals on the endangered species list; each year, this list grows.

Notice how both sides of the semicolon could stand alone as complete sentences. Also notice how the topic of each sentence is closely related.

When you write, be careful not to form comma splices, run-on sentences, or sentence fragments. Here are the differences.

Sentence with a Comma Splice

Incorrect – I went to the movies, the movie was great.

Correct – I went to the movies. The movie was great.

By using the incorrect punctuation between the two sentences, the comma, you are “splicing” two complete sentences, thus creating the comma splice.

Run-on Sentence

Incorrect – I went to the movies the movie was great.

Correct – I went to the movies. The movie was great.

When you leave out the punctuation (in this case the period), you have two independent clauses, or complete sentences, that “run-on” into each other.

Sentence Fragment

Incorrect – Ran into each other.

Correct – The boys ran into each other.

Every complete sentence must have a subject, a verb, and a complete thought. By leaving out the subject (boys), it becomes a fragment and does not complete a thought. Who ran into each other? What is the complete thought?

Subject-Verb Agreement

When you write, your subjects and verbs must agree in number. If your subject is singular, your verb must be singular; if your subject is plural, your verb must be plural.

Incorrect – My two sisters does not like broccoli.

Correct – My two sisters do not like broccoli.

Incorrect – Neither of my parents like broccoli.

Correct – Neither of my parents likes broccoli.

- Why is the first sentence incorrect?

Hint, Hint

The subject of a sentence is never in a prepositional phrase.



Guided Instruction

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

Armadillos

(1) The name armadillo comes from a Spanish word that means "little armored one." (2) There are 20 different breeds of armadillos.

(3) Only the nine-banded armadillo lives in the United States.

(4) Often, you can see an armadillo in the state of Texas.

(5) An armadillo has a bony shell that covers its back and shields that cover its shoulders and rump, which can protect the armadillo from its enemies. (6) Its speed and its digging ability help it avoid danger.

(7) With poor eyesight, the armadillo depends on its keen sense of smell to locate food. (8) It uses its pointed, shovel-shaped snout to root around under plants and in holes. (9) Surprisingly, armadillos also like to swim. (10) When an armadillo swims, it uses a motion like a dog paddle. (11) Its shell weighs it down on a long swim. (12) However, during a swim it takes the air into its intestines, which helps it float. (13) An armadillo can walk quite a distance along the bottom of a pond. (14) It can hold its breath for almost six minutes at a time.

Guided Questions

How could you combine sentences 2 and 3 into a complex sentence?

Rewrite sentence 5 as two sentences.

What is the subordinate clause in sentence 10?

Critical Thinking

1. Use information from the passage to write a complex sentence using a relative pronoun.



2. Use information from the passage to write a complex sentence using a subordinating conjunction.



3. Using the information below, create 2 complex sentences.

An armadillo has a bony shell that covers its back and shields its shoulders and rump, which can protect it from its enemies. Its speed and its digging ability help it to avoid danger.

Quick Write Write a description of an animal you consider amazing. Use complex sentences in your writing. Then place it in your writing portfolio.

The Writer's Craft Choose a story or article from a magazine or newspaper. Make copies for the group. Use ideas to create complex sentences.

How Am I Doing?

- ★ What questions do you have?

- ★ How do complex sentences help you as you read?

- ★ 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.

Sylvia read about the amazing bats of Austin and wanted to tell readers about them. Read Sylvia's draft. Then answer the questions that follow it.

The Bats of Austin

- (1) Have you heard about the amazing swarms of bats in Austin, the capital of Texas?
- (2) In 1980, engineers in downtown Austin rebuilt the Congress Avenue Bridge. (3) The engineers didn't suspect that the crevices beneath the bridge would be a perfect place for a bat roost.
- (4) Bats had lived in Austin for years. (5) After a few months had passed, however, thousands of bats began appearing under the Congress Avenue Bridge. (6) People in the community became alarmed about this enormous wave of bats. (7) Some wanted the city government to remove the bats for health and safety reasons.
- (8) During this controversy a group of bat experts began to teach the public about bats.
- (9) Bats are gentle and intelligent. (10) The bats have habits that are helpful to us. (11) In a single night, they can eat from 10,000 to 30,000 pounds of insects, including mosquitoes.
- (12) Suddenly, the idea grew among the people of Austin that they were better off with bats than without bats.
- (13) Today, Austin has the largest colony of bats inside any city in North America. (14) The 1.5 million bats have become a tourist attraction. (15) The bats begin to arrive and remain in the area until early November. (16) Then they travel to central Mexico for the winter. (17) The bats swarm out of their crevices every night. (18) They do this at different times. (19) As the weather gets hotter and drier, they emerge earlier and earlier to look for food. (20) The best month to see them is August, when they appear before sundown. (21) That is also, when the newborn bats start to search for food in the city with their mothers.

- 1** What correction, if any, should be made to sentences 9 and 10?
- A** Bats are gentle and intelligent the bats have helpful habits.
- B** Bats are gentle and intelligent, they have habits that help us.
- C** Bats are gentle and intelligent they have habits that are helpful to us.
- D** No change is needed in sentences 9 and 10.
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- 2** Which complex sentence would correctly combine sentences 15 and 16?
- F** The bats begin to arrive and remain in the area until early November, then they travel to central Mexico for the winter.
- G** The bats begin to arrive and remain in the area until early November then they travel to central Mexico for the winter.
- H** The bats begin to arrive and remain in the area until early November; then they travel to central Mexico for the winter.
- J** The bats begin to arrive and remain in the area until early November, they travel to central Mexico for the winter.
- 3** What correction, if any, should be made to sentence 6?
- A** People in the community, became alarmed about this enormous wave of bats.
- B** People in the community became, alarmed about this enormous wave of bats.
- C** People in the community became alarmed, about this enormous wave of bats.
- D** No change should be made to sentence 6.
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- 4** Which complex sentence correctly combines sentences 17 and 18?
- F** The bats swarm out of their crevices every night they do this at different times.
- G** The bats swarm out of their crevices every night, they do this at different times.
- H** The bats swarm out of their crevices every night; they do this at different times.
- J** At different times; the bats swarm out of their crevices every night.
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- 5** Look at the sentence.

The best month to see them is August they appear before sundown.

What, if anything, is grammatically wrong with this sentence?

- A** It is a fragment.
- B** It is a run-on sentence.
- C** It has a comma splice.
- D** There is nothing wrong with the sentence.

★ Assessment

Choose the best answer to each question.

- 1 Look at this sentence.

There are amazing swarms of bats in Austin, it is the capital of Texas.

What, if anything, is grammatically incorrect about this sentence?

- A** They are two dependent clauses lined together.
- B** It contains a comma splice.
- C** It is a run-on sentence.
- D** There is nothing wrong with the sentence.
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- 2 Which complex sentence correctly combines both sentences 3 and 4 without grammatical errors?
- F** The engineers didn't suspect that the crevices beneath the bridge would be a perfect place for a bat roost, but bats had lived in Austin for years.
- G** The engineers didn't suspect that the crevices beneath the bridge would be a perfect place for a bat roost, bats had lived in Austin for years.
- H** The engineers didn't suspect that the crevices beneath the bridge would be a perfect place for a bat roost bats had lived in Austin for years.
- J** Bats had lived in Austin for years in the roost.

- 3 Which complex sentence correctly combines sentences 13 and 14?

- A** Today, Austin has the largest colony of bats, inside any city in North America, the 1.5 million bats have become a tourist attraction.
- B** Today, Austin has the largest colony of bats inside any city in North America, the 1.5 million bats have become a tourist attraction.
- C** Today, Austin has the largest colony of bats inside any city in North America the 1.5 million bats have become a tourist attraction.
- D** Today, Austin has the largest colony of bats inside any city in North America, and they have become a tourist attraction.

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- 4 Which change should be made to sentence 12?

- F** Add a comma after ***grew***
- G** Add a comma before ***grew***
- H** Add a semicolon after ***Austin***
- J** No change needs to be made.

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- 5 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 21?

- A** Delete the comma after ***also***
- B** Add a comma after ***food***
- C** Add a semicolon after ***food***
- D** No change should be made.



Exit Ticket

Now you have learned about complex sentences. Let's make a real-world connection. Molly is practicing writing complex sentences on her own, but she needs to add in conjunctions to finish what she wrote.



Read the sentences below. Provide a subordinating conjunction to fill in the gaps.

1. I'm going to the bank _____ I need some money.
2. I made lunch _____ I got home.
3. _____ it is raining, she is going for a walk in the park.
4. _____ she finishes her homework soon, she will fail the class.
5. He decided to trust Tim _____ he was an honest man.