

# Complex Sentences

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- A complex sentence is made up of an **independent clause** (simple sentence) and one or more **dependent clauses** (phrases).

- An **independent clause** can stand on its own – it doesn't need anything else to help it become a sentence.

Example:

The team always runs 25 laps around the gym.

**\*This is a complete sentence. It makes sense on its own.**

- A **dependent clause** can't stand on its own. It depends on something else to make it a complete sentence.

Example:

Before basketball practice begins

**\*This is just a phrase. We need more information to make sense of it.**

- Dependent clauses start with **subordinating conjunctions**. Here are the most common:

after

because

until

although

when

unless

as

while

since

before

if

so

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