

Grade 3 Playlist: Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.1.1*:

- Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences.

Welcome

Writers want to make their stories interesting. One way they do this is by using different kinds of sentences. If they use only short, simple sentences, their writing will seem boring. It is better to use a mix of sentences with different structures. Some sentences can be short. Some sentences can be longer, with more interesting structures. Using a mix of simple, compound, and complex sentences makes writing seem less choppy and more natural.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn and practice how to:

- identify independent and dependent clauses.
- use conjunctions to connect clauses.
- produce simple sentences, compound sentences, and complex sentences.

Review

Key Term

- A **sentence** is a group of words that tells a complete thought. A sentence has a subject and a verb. It can have many other details, too. A sentence ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation point.

Look at these examples of sentences:

Subject	Verb	Other Details
Tim	drinks	a huge glass of water.
Our friends	go	to the park after school every Friday.

Exploring the Standard

There are three main types of sentences:

- Simple sentences
- Compound sentences
- Complex sentences



A Closer Look: Simple sentences

Simple sentences are the most basic type of sentence. A simple sentence has a subject and a verb. The verb is the action. The subject is the person or object that does the action. A simple sentence must tell a complete thought. Simple sentences are usually shorter than other types of sentences.

Read!

Learn more about simple sentences:

- <https://www.englishclub.com/grammar/sentence-what.htm>

A Closer Look: Independent Clauses vs. Dependent Clauses

A simple sentence also can be called an independent clause. An independent clause is made up of a subject and a verb. It tells a complete thought. Compound and complex sentences have independent clauses in them. Unlike independent clauses, dependent clauses do not tell a complete thought. A dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Look at these examples:

Independent Clause – Paulina watched the sunrise.

Dependent Clause – As she watched,

“Paulina watched the sunrise” is a complete thought. It has a subject, Paulina, and a verb, watched. It is an independent clause and also a simple sentence.

“As she watched,” does not tell a complete thought. It has a subject, she, and a verb, watched. But, it is not a sentence. It is missing some information to make it a complete thought.

Practice!

Practice identifying independent and dependent clauses:

- <http://www.myschoolhouse.com/courses/O/1/56.asp>

