

Compound and complex sentences

A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses connected by a coordinating conjunction. Common examples of coordinating conjunctions are: and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so.

A complex sentence has a main clause and one or more dependent clauses. In a complex sentence we use a subordinating conjunction to connect the dependent clause to the main clause. Common examples of subordinating conjunctions are: as, when, while, because, since, after, before, although, though, if, whether, unless and until.

We can change a compound sentence into a complex sentence by replacing the coordinating conjunction with a subordinating conjunction. Study the examples given below.

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate conjunction.

1. The doctor must come at once
..... the patient will die.

or

if

and

2. the doctor does
not come at once, the patient will die.

Unless

If

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Whether

3. Gandhi believed in non-violence
..... some of his followers
were extremists.

and

so

but

4. Gandhi believed in
non-violence some of his followers were
extremists.

However

Though

Despite

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5. Search his pockets

..... you will find the stolen watch.

so

and

than

6. you search his pockets, you will find the stolen watch.

If

Whether

Unless

7. You must hurry you will miss the train.

unless

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if

or

8. you do not hurry
you will miss the train.

Unless

If

Whether

9. He wants to be a scholar,
..... he is studying hard.

therefore

hence

so

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10. he wants to be a scholar he is studying hard.

As

So

Answers

The doctor must come at once or the patient will die. (Compound sentence)

2. If the doctor does not come at once, the patient will die. (Complex sentence)

3. Gandhi believed in non-violence but some of his followers were extremists. (Compound sentence)

4. Though Gandhi believed in non-violence some of his followers were extremists. (Complex sentence)

5. Search his pockets and you will find the stolen watch. (Compound sentence)

6. If you search his pockets, you will find the stolen watch. (Complex sentence)

7. You must hurry or you will miss the train. (Compound sentence)

8. If you do not hurry you will miss the train. (Complex sentence)

9. He wants to be a scholar, so he is studying hard. (Compound sentence)

10. As he wants to be a scholar he is studying hard. (Complex sentence)