


Lesson 5

Complex and Compound-Complex Sentences

 **MS CCRS L.7.1b:** Choose among . . . complex [and] compound–complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.



Introduction

A **clause** is a group of words with both a subject and a predicate. An **independent clause** can stand alone; a **dependent clause** cannot. A dependent clause usually begins with a **subordinating conjunction** such as *while*, *because*, or *although* or a **relative pronoun** such as *who*, *that*, or *which*.

- A **complex sentence** has an independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

While many people enjoy music, some scientists think that it also makes them smarter.

Scientists have done studies that suggest a link between music and reading skills.

- A **compound-complex** sentence has at least two independent clauses joined by a **coordinating conjunction**, as well as one or more dependent clauses.

Scientists have made some important discoveries about music, and this research has encouraged people who want school music programs to continue.



Guided Practice

Identify each sentence type by writing *complex* or *compound-complex*. Underline the dependent clause or clauses in each sentence.

Hint

Remember: A complex sentence has one independent clause. A compound-complex sentence has at least two independent clauses. Both types of sentences have at least one dependent clause.

- 1 Researchers have found interesting connections between music and brain activity, although the results are not final.

- 2 When college students in one study had received musical training before age 12, they were able to remember more words from a list than students who had not received training. _____
- 3 In another study, students had higher reading scores after seven months if they had received daily music lessons, and their scores remained high after a year. _____
- 4 Most schools do not want to cut music programs, but some schools have no choice because they do not have enough money.



Independent Practice

For numbers 1–4, choose the sentence that answers each question.

1

Which of these is a complex sentence?

- A Schools have had to cut not only music but also art.
- B Many students love music, and most of them like art.
- C Teachers value music and art, and many have fought to keep these programs.
- D While some children take private music lessons, many students can't afford them.

2

Which of these is a compound-complex sentence?

- A Some schools have found ways to offer music instruction to their students.
- B These schools receive money from outside organizations that donate money.
- C A foundation is an organization that raises money for causes, and some foundations focus on music programs.
- D Music may raise students' test scores, so these foundations see music programs as an investment in the future.

3

Which of these is a complex sentence containing more than one dependent clause?

- A A foundation in Tennessee bought musical instruments for students in Memphis who could not pay for their own instruments.
- B Only ten percent of families in the Memphis City Schools could afford to rent an instrument, so the foundation provided the money.
- C During the next eight years, the school district was voted one of the "Best Communities for Music Education in America" four times!
- D Because the foundation believed in the importance of music, all students in Memphis now have access to instruments, which has changed children's lives.

4

Which is the **best** way to combine the sentences into a compound-complex sentence?

Music relaxes some people. Other people get energy from music. Music increases their heart rate.

- A Music relaxes some people and gives other people energy and increases their heart rate.
- B Music relaxes some people, but other people get energy from music because it increases their heart rate.
- C Music relaxes people, and it increases their heart rate while it gives energy to them.
- D Because music relaxes some people and it gives energy to others, music increases their heart rate.