LET'S FOCUS ON COMPLEX SENTENCES

WHAT IS A COMPLEX SENTENCE?

A **complex sentence** has an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses (*or subordinate clauses*), which cannot stand alone.

Example: Although she is allergic, she ate the seafood.

Here, "although she is allergic" is the subordinate clause as it cannot stand alone – it gives more information about the independent clause.

EXERCISE 1

*Underline the **dependent (subordinate)** clauses in the sentences below.*

1. The economy is growing although unemployment is increasing.
2. My father, who I think you'd like, enjoyed your cake.
3. Even though you are unwell, will you come to the party?
4. Edith burned the dinner because she had forgotten about it.
5. Roses, which I don't even like, grow in the garden, even though I never water them.
6. After they finished studying, the children went to the movies even though they knew they weren't allowed.

EXERCISE 2

Identify whether the following are complex sentences or not by ticking the YES or NO box. If NO, then give a reason why not.

		Yes	No	Reason
1	Dan can play the piano although he never does.			
2	My sister continues to excel while my grades are failing.			
3	I love to go to bed late, but my sister goes to bed early.			
4	Julie and Vicky went to play in the park and walk the dog.			
5	Although I really do enjoy hiking, and don't want to disappoint you.			
6	As soon as he finished his homework, he went outside.			

EXERCISE 3

Below, write three complex sentences of your own.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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ANSWER KEY

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Example: Although she is allergic, she ate the seafood.

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EXERCISE 1

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EXERCISE 2

Identify whether the following are complex sentences or not by ticking the YES or NO box. If NO, then give a reason why not.

		Yes	No	Reason
1	Dan can play the piano although he never does.	✓		
2	My sister continues to excel while my grades are failing.	✓		
3	I love to go to bed late, but my sister goes to bed early.		✗	There are two independent clauses.
4	Julie and Vicky went to play in the park and walk the dog.		✗	This is a simple sentence.
5	Although I really do enjoy hiking, and don't want to disappoint you.		✗	There is no independent clause (it is just a subordinate clause)
6	As soon as he finished his homework, he went outside.	✓		

EXERCISE 3

Below, write three complex sentences of your own.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Writing exercise – no strict answer key.

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