INTRODUCTION:
Welcome to Ten-Minute Grammar! The goal of these units is to help students build a solid understanding of grade-level grammar concepts during the first ten minutes of the class period each day. Each unit goes through a progression in which new grammatical concepts are introduced (by discovery, as much as possible), built upon, and then practiced and reviewed. In addition, the concepts in each consecutive unit build on one another logically—it might seem silly to spend time reviewing nouns and verbs with 8th graders, but it’s necessary if they’re going to understand things like gerunds and infinitives or specific types of verb phrases.

This unit includes a week and a half of daily bell-ringer activities, a quiz, and two practice worksheets.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE:
- Start the Day One bell ringer on a Monday.
- The two “Practice” worksheets can be done as a class any time during the week (or it can be skipped if you feel your students don’t need it.)
- By Friday, if you feel the class is ready for it, give the unit quiz.
  - If you feel like the entire class needs additional practice to master the concept, there are three additional bell-ringer activities.
  - Differentiation: The “Alternate Quiz” included in the packet is a slightly modified quiz geared toward students with IEPs that call for such modifications.
- After the quiz, a student who clearly failed to grasp one or more of the week’s concepts should be assigned the “Extra Practice” worksheet. (Answers are included so students can check their work as they review.) After completing the worksheet, the student can retake the unit quiz for an improved grade.
- Starting a unit mid-week isn’t a problem at all—don’t feel like you MUST start on a Monday!

OBJECTIVES:
1. Students should understand that…
   a. A complex sentence contains one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause.
   b. A compound-complex sentence contains two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause.
   c. In a complex sentence, if the subordinate clause comes before the independent clauses, you must put a comma between the two clauses; if the independent clause comes before the subordinate clause, no comma is necessary.
2. Students should be able to…
   a. Identify examples of simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences.
   b. Correctly combine subordinate clauses with independent clauses.
   c. Write examples of complex and compound-complex sentences.

KEYS TO THE UNIT:
This is the second in a pair of SENTENCE TYPES units, so it takes for granted that students have already practiced identifying and writing simple and compound sentences. This unit does include review and
practice with the first two sentence types, but most of the time is spent with the rules for combining independent and subordinate clauses. Because we’re practicing with several new concepts as well as reemphasizing concepts from a past unit, it might be good to spend a few more days with this one—we want to make sure the students have this down before we move on.

**DAILY ROUTINE:**
Have the day’s bell-ringer activity up on a projector when the students come to class each day. I have my students do the assignment on quarter-sheets of paper (I cut them up and have a stack available each day). Days Four and Six in this unit require copyediting with proofreading marks; since it takes too long for students to copy the incorrect sentences and then edit them, a page of quarter-size student answer sheets are provided for those days (see the pages after the last bell ringer.)

Students should **spend the first five minutes working silently** (use that time to take roll and then circulate around the room to keep kids on task.) After the five minutes of work time, **spend the next five minutes going over the answers.** Use the correction session each day to explain new concepts, clarify ideas, and correct misconceptions. For each question, I like to have my students turn to the person next to them and share their answer; then I ask a student to volunteer an answer. If a student answers incorrectly, find someone else who can give the correct answer. Help the class understand the concept a little better and then ask the first student a question like, “Explain why your first answer was wrong.” I’ve never had a student feel offended by this—if anything, it gives kids a chance to redeem themselves after what might have been an embarrassing moment of being wrong in front of everyone.

If you use an overhead projector, a Smart Board, or project onto a white marker board, you can **choose a student each day** to come to the front and write answers or corrections as other students volunteer them.

How you **grade** the daily bell-ringer questions is up to you. I used to give my students full credit as long as they attempted each question and then participated in the answer session. But this year, I actually stopped grading the daily practice altogether—so students are graded solely on the unit quiz (and sometimes the practice worksheet.) This has worked great. The only issue with doing it like this is that you have to make sure you don’t let kids get away with not doing the bell-ringer—I sometimes hold them during lunch if they were slacking off and didn’t do it.

The **Wordplay** at the end of each day’s questions can be a way to earn extra credit if you choose. As incentive to work quickly, I tell my students they can’t begin on the Wordplay until they’re finished with the other questions, and I always offer a piece of candy to the first student to get the answer right or the student with the best answer or most answers. (You’d be surprised what junior-high students will do for a Starburst or a Jolly Rancher!)

**LITERATURE:**
This unit contains example selections from *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, by Gennifer Choldenko.
How many INDEPENDENT CLAUSES and SUBORDINATE CLAUSES does each example sentence have?

1. **COMPLEX SENTENCE**: When Gertrude the elephant escaped from the circus, she went looking for another source of peanuts. 1 IND, 1 SUB

2. **COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE**: She went to the grocery store, but they wouldn’t give her any peanuts because Gertrude had no money. 2 IND, 1 SUB

3. **COMPLEX SENTENCE**: After she left the grocery store, Gertrude searched everywhere but couldn’t find a person who would give her peanuts. 1 IND, 2 SUB

4. **COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE**: Since finding free peanuts turned out to be impossible, Gertrude decided to give up eating peanuts, so she started eating grass instead because grass is free. 2 IND, 2 SUB

In your own words...

5. What is a “complex sentence” (look at sentences 1 and 3)? A sentence with one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause

6. What is a “compound-complex sentence” (look at sentences 2 and 4)? A sentence with two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause

Is the following example a **COMPLEX** sentence or a **COMPOUND-COMPLEX** sentence:

7. Although Gertrude missed peanuts, she did enjoy her new diet, and she enjoyed her new freedom even more. **COMPOUND-COMPLEX**

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **EIGHT BALL**: Create as many words as you can using three or more of the letters below (at least one eight-letter word is possible):
  - L B D O R L E O
  - Doorbell
When you combine independent and subordinate clauses in a COMPLEX sentence, do you need a comma between them? It depends.

- When a subordinate clause comes before an independent clause, you always need a comma between the two clauses.
- Don’t put a comma between them if the independent clause is first.

**TEACHER:** Notice that these two sentences explaining the comma rules are also examples of the comma rules. You might also want to point out that subordinate clauses that begin with relative pronouns and interrupt the independent clause are sometimes an exception to these rules. We’ll go over those rules in the “Comma Rules” Ten-Minute Grammar units.

Decide whether or not you need a comma between the following clauses:

1. ever since I bought a new computer / I can’t get my printer to work
   
   Comma between **computer** and **I**

2. my little sister won’t eat at a restaurant / unless they serve pizza.  
   
   NO comma

3. as soon as the plane arrives / we need to get off and find our luggage / because we don’t want to be late for the conference
   
   Comma between **arrives** and **we**, but NO comma between **luggage** and **because**

In COMPOUND-COMPLEX sentences, you have to follow the clause-combining rules for both compound sentences AND complex sentences.

What punctuation do you need to turn the following sets of clauses into COMPOUND-COMPLEX sentences?

4. whenever scientists experiment with genetics / they end up creating mutated monsters / the beasts usually destroy the entire city.
   
   Comma between **genetics** and **they**, and either a semi-colon or a comma and “and” between **monsters** and **the**

5. we can’t leave / until the car is fixed / we might as well get some rest
   
   NO comma between **leave** and **until**, and either a semi-colon or a comma and “so” between **fixed** and **we**

**Wordplay – Just for fun!**

➢ **DESCRAMBLER:** Try to sort out the five scrambled words below:

   GPSI  TOUSH  LILREK  NMGNOIR  TREDARFS

   Pigs  South  Killer  Morning  Drafters
1. When I was five, I was kind of a runt. **COMPLEX**

2. I think about going in my room now, but it smells like the inside of an old lunch bag in there. **COMPOUND**

3. My bed’s a squeaky old army cot. **SIMPLE**

4. When I sit down, it sounds like dozens of mice are dying an ugly death. **COMPLEX**

5. I’m a little jumpy; anybody would be. **COMPOUND**

6. Still, I want to get a look at this weird little island, and what do I care what a bunch of criminals think, anyway? **COMPOUND-COMPLEX**

Do the following sentences combine clauses correctly (answer **YES** or **NO**)? If it’s not correct, how could you fix it?

7. You shouldn’t talk, while you are chewing, it’s very rude. **NO**

8. Even if you don’t like monkeys, you have to admit that Curious George is pretty cool. **YES**

**Wordplay – Just for fun!**

- **FOUR-LETTER WORDS**: Take the four-letter word below and change one letter to make a new four-letter word (keep it clean!) Then take that word and change one letter to make a new word. Then take that word and... You get the picture.

  FIRE
Read the following excerpt from *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko. Then answer the four questions below:

(a) The only guns on the island are up high in the towers or the catwalks because a gun carried by a guard could be a gun carried by a criminal. (b) The keys to all the boats are kept up there for the same reason. (c) A full moon cuts a white path across the bay while the wind blows, making something creak and a buoy clang in the distance.

1. What type of sentence is sentence (a)? **COMPLEX**
2. What type of sentence is sentence (b)? **SIMPLE**
3. Find two subordinating conjunctions in this passage. *because* and *while*
4. What type of sentence is sentence (c)? **COMPLEX**

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

I yell to Natalie,† as I wade through the boxes to the front door. The last thing I want is to meet new kids† when Natalie is around. New people don’t understand about her; they just don’t. (You could also fix the last error by adding a period and capitalizing *they*.)

**Wordplay – Just for fun!**

- **RHYME THYME:** Time to think like a rapper. How many rhymes can you come up with for the following word?  
  - **BLACK**
REVIEW FOR TODAY’S QUIZ:

1. What is a complex sentence, and what is a compound-complex sentence? A complex sentence has one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause; a compound-complex sentence has two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause.

2. What type of sentence is each of the following examples?
   a. Jake wanted to buy a new video game, and he didn’t care that his dad told him he couldn’t. **COMPOUND-COMPLEX**
   b. My car is the coolest thing in the world. **SIMPLE**
   c. When I was younger, I didn’t know how to do my own laundry. **COMPLEX**
   d. She thought about eating a piece of the birthday cake, but it had way too much purple frosting on it. **COMPOUND**

3. Do the following sentences combine independent and subordinate clauses correctly?
   a. Ever since the game last night, Jordan thinks that he’s the best basketball player in the world, but he’s not. **YEX**
   b. After my goldfish died. My parents got me a new one. **NO**
   c. I don’t want a hamburger, because I’m on a diet. **NO**

4. Can you write an example of a complex sentence and a compound-complex sentence?
Read the following sentences from *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko. Decide what type of sentence each example is: SIMPLE, COMPOUND, COMPLEX, or COMPOUND-COMPLEX.

1. Sometimes Natalie’s tantrums go on and on for days, and nothing makes them stop. **COMPOUND**
2. It’s impossible to know what will set her off. **COMPLEX**
3. I scribble a note to my mom to tell her that we’ve gone out, and I prop the paper between the ketchup and the cod-liver oil. **COMPOUND-COMPLEX**
4. Natalie is walking behind us with her head down, dragging her left foot on the edge of every step as if she’s marking it with her toe. **COMPLEX**
5. I want to take her hand to make sure she keeps up, but nobody touches Natalie. **COMPOUND**

Do the following sentences combine independent clauses correctly (answer YES or NO)? If it’s not correct, how could you fix it?

6. Because she couldn’t find her keys, Mom decided to take the bus, but she was still late for work. **YES**
7. I broke a window with my baseball so Dad is going to be upset, when he comes home. **NO**

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **CATALOG CREATOR**: The root word “-mor- / -mort-” means “mortal or death.” How many words can you list that contain this root?
Read the following excerpt from *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko. Then answer the four questions below:

(a) Theresa reads really well for a little kid, except she can’t walk and read at the same time. 
(b) Now we’re at a complete standstill on the steep road that leads to the top of the island. 
(c) “Couldn’t we do this after we go to the morgue?” I ask.

1. What type of sentence is sentence (a)? **COMPLEX** (You might want to point out that since the second half of the sentence is a SUBORDINATE clause, the comma after **kid** isn’t necessary. However, authors are free to bend those rules a little for style purposes.

2. What type of sentence is sentence (b)? **COMPLEX**

3. What is the subordinate clause in sentence (c)? **after we go to the morgue**

4. What is the independent clause in sentence (a)? **Theresa reads really well for a little kid**

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

I glance back at **natalie**, who has been so **quite** that I almost forgot she was there. She’s looking at the ground as if she lost **something**, her arms are down at **side**, not up high like a **Chipmunk’s** the way they usually are.

**Wordplay – Just for fun!**

**FIXER-ROOTER:** How many words can you think of that have the same prefix, suffix, or root as the multisyllabic word below? 

**SUFFICIENCY** – **SUF** / **FIC** / **ENCY**

(an ample or adequate supply)
Read the following excerpt from *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko. Then answer the questions below:

(a) My mom is in her room unpacking, and Natalie’s sitting on the kitchen floor, running her hands through her button box. (b) She knows more about those buttons than it seems possible to know. (c) If I hide one behind my back, she can take one look at her box and name the exact button that I have.

1. What type of sentence is sentence (a)? COMPOUND
2. What type of sentence is sentence (b)? COMPLEX
3. What is the subordinate clause in sentence (b)? than it seems possible to know
4. What type of sentence is sentence (c)? COMPLEX
5. What is the subordinating conjunction in sentence (c)? If
6. What is the relative pronoun in sentence (c)? that

**Wordplay – Just for fun!**

➤ **ANAGRAM:** Rearrange the letters in the nonsense phrase below to create new words that actually make sense.

DOT WHEN THREEFOLD

(Hint: 2012?)

The End of the World
If you’re trying to decide what type of sentence a particular example is, the key is to figure out how many CLAUSES the sentence has.

- **A SIMPLE SENTENCE** has ONE independent clause
- **A COMPOUND SENTENCE** has TWO independent clauses
- **A COMPLEX SENTENCE** has ONE independent and at least ONE subordinate clause
- **A COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE** has TWO independent clauses and at least ONE subordinate clause

- **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** – has a subject and a predicate and can stand alone as a sentence.
- **SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** – also has a subject and a predicate, but it cannot stand alone because it starts with a subordinate clause or a relative pronoun.

**In the following sentences, underline each clause (subject and predicate) and how many of each type of clause the sentence has. Then decide what type of sentence it is.**

**EXAMPLE:** Unfortunately, my friend’s parents both lost their jobs last week, and now her family is going to have to move away.

**INDEPENDENT:** 2  **SUBORDINATE:** 0  **SENTENCE TYPE:**  COMPOUND

1. My friends and I have been planning a trip to Alaska for months, but my parents won’t let me go unless I get my grades up.

**INDEPENDENT:** 2  **SUBORDINATE:** 1  **SENTENCE TYPE:**  COMPOUND-COMPLEX

2. Ever since the Sampson’s moved in next door, I have to be more careful when I drive up and down the street because Mr. Sampson is a police officer.

**INDEPENDENT:** 1  **SUBORDINATE:** 3  **SENTENCE TYPE:**  COMPLEX

3. There is an exchange student from Austria who I met in my English class; I want to ask her out before she moves back at the end of the year.

**INDEPENDENT:** 2  **SUBORDINATE:** 2  **SENTENCE TYPE:**  COMPOUND-COMPLEX

4. After high school, my sister and my best friend both want to go to art school and become photographers. Notice that the “After high school” is not a clause at all.

**INDEPENDENT:** 1  **SUBORDINATE:** 0  **SENTENCE TYPE:**  SIMPLE
Sometimes, a sentence will contain a phrase that almost looks like a clause but doesn’t have a subject and predicate. Look at these examples:

- Ever since the football game last week, the screen on my TV won’t stop flickering.
- Ever since I hit it with a football last week, the screen on my TV won’t stop flickering.

In the first example, the underlined part has no predicate, so it’s not a clause. That means that the first example is a SIMPLE sentence. In the second example, the underlined part is a subordinate clause, so the sentence is COMPLEX.

*Look at the pairs of examples below. Decide whether the underlined part is a clause or not, and then decide which answer option matches each sentence:*

**EXAMPLE:**

- Police and firemen closed down the highway because the forest was burning.
- Police and firemen closed down the highway because of the forest fire.

   a. SIMPLE   b. COMPLEX

5. **b** Our football coach is old, but he’s still very athletic.

   a. Our football coach is old but very athletic.

   a. SIMPLE   b. COMPOUND

6. **a** After the satellite’s crash landing in the ocean, NASA sent a team to recover the wreckage; they will end up using it to build a new satellite.

   **b** After the satellite crashed into the ocean, NASA sent a team to recover the wreckage; they will end up using it to build a new satellite.

   a. COMPOUND   b. COMPOUND-COMPLEX

7. **b** I want some popcorn, so I’m going to go buy it now before the movie starts.

   **a** I want some popcorn, so I’m going to go buy it now before the end of the previews.

   a. COMPOUND   b. COMPOUND-COMPLEX

8. **b** My brother opened his birthday presents, and he loved the gift that I picked out for him.

   **a** My brother opened his birthday presents, and he loved that gift over there.

   a. COMPOUND   b. COMPOUND-COMPLEX

9. **a** Until the arrival of the president, everyone else at the meeting just sat around waiting.

   **b** Until the president finally arrived, everyone else at the meeting just sat around waiting.

   a. SIMPLE   b. COMPLEX

10. **a** If you want to borrow my car, you have to give me gas money and ten extra bucks, too.

    **b** If you want to borrow my car, you have to pay for the gas, and I want ten extra bucks.

    a. COMPLEX   b. COMPOUND-COMPLEX
COMPLEX sentences and COMPOUND-COMPLEX sentences contain a combination of independent and subordinate clauses. Remember the rules for combining clauses:

There are only two correct ways to join TWO INDEPENDENT clauses:

- Put a comma (,) and a coordinating conjunction (and, but, so) between them
- Put a semi-colon (;) between them

When you combine INDEPENDENT and SUBORDINATE clauses, do you need a comma between them?

- If the subordinate clause comes before an independent clause, you always need a comma (,) between them
- DON’T put a comma between them if the independent clause is first

In the following examples, the INDEPENDENT clauses are underlined once, and the SUBORDINATE clauses are underlined twice. Choose the option that combines clauses correctly (answer A or B):

1. A. After the aliens invaded, life for most people was much better because they solved all of Earth’s major problems.
   B. After the aliens invaded life for most people was much better, because they solved all of Earth’s major problems.

2. A. If you want to survive a zombie apocalypse; the key is to carry plenty of ammunition.
   B. If you want to survive a zombie apocalypse, the key is to carry plenty of ammunition.

3. A. My computer is constantly malfunctioning but yesterday I bought a new one; that I found for a great deal on the internet.
   B. My computer is constantly malfunctioning, but yesterday I bought a new one that I found for a great deal on the internet.

4. A. I am exhausted, so I’m going to stay home tonight while everyone else goes to a movie.
   B. I am exhausted so I’m going to stay home tonight; while everyone else goes to a movie.

5. A. When my cousins first arrived; we got along great but we were ready to kill each other, after we had been together for twenty minutes.
   B. When my cousins first arrived, we got along great, but we were ready to kill each other after we had been together for twenty minutes.
Decide whether each of the following sentences join clauses correctly (answer YES or NO):

6. **NO** Whenever I lose my car keys; I just have my dog look for them and Max never fails to find them.

7. **NO** As I was getting off the bus someone shoved me but I didn’t see who it was.

8. **YES** I ate four cheeseburgers before I finally got full.

9. **YES** If you want me to show you how to do your math homework, you have to explain comma rules to me because I have an essay due tomorrow.

10. **NO** The giant gorilla went on a rampage and it had destroyed half of the city, before it’s owner finally recaptured it.

Use the rules explained on the first page to combine the following clauses into one full sentence (rewrite the new sentence):

12. when we first got our dog / he didn’t know how to do any tricks
When we first got our dog, he didn’t know how to do any tricks.

13. until I pay Dad a hundred dollars / I have to go without my cell phone / because I went way over my texting limit last month
Until I pay Dad a hundred dollars, I have to go without my cell phone because I went way over my texting limit last month.

14. as soon as the movie starts / you should stop talking / it’s rude to interrupt
As soon as the movie starts, you should stop talking; it’s rude to interrupt.

15. my friend decided to try out for the school musical / but Mr. Johnson didn’t give her the part / because she can’t sing and dance at the same time
My friend decided to try out for the school musical, but Mr. Johnson didn’t give her the part because she can’t sing and dance at the same time.

Now write your own sentences:

16. Complex sentence – ANSWERS WILL VARY.
   If you want to borrow my basketball,
   you have to bring it back right away.

17. Complex sentence –
   I’m totally exhausted today
   because my friends and I stayed up all night last night.

18. Compound-complex sentence –
   As soon as I get home from school,
   Mom and Dad are taking me out to an all-you-can-eat restaurant for my birthday,
   so I’m not going to eat very much for lunch today.
Match the following terms with the correct definition:

1. Complex Sentence _____ B
2. Compound-Complex Sentence ____ A
   
   A. A sentence that contains two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause
   B. A very complicated sentence
   C. A sentence that contains one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause
   D. Two very complicated sentences put together

What type of sentence is each example? Write SIMPLE, COMPOUND, COMPLEX, or COMPOUND-COMPLEX.

3. __________ Shawn wanted to ride his bike, and he didn’t care that his mom told him he couldn’t.
   COMPOUND-COMPLEX

4. __________ He thinks about going into his room, but it smells like a locker room in there.
   COMPOUND

5. __________ When Mike was a kid, he was kind of a runt compared to the other boys.
   COMPLEX

6. __________ My TV is an old piece of junk.
   SIMPLE

7. __________ I will only come if Jamie is there.
   COMPLEX

8. __________ Shannon left a note to tell her parents that she was going to be gone for a few days, and she got in the car and left before anyone could stop her.
   COMPOUND-COMPLEX

9. __________ I don’t have time to pick you up; you’re going to have to drive your own car to the game.
   COMPOUND
Which example is a COMPLEX sentence? Circle A or B.

10. **A.** Ever since the football game last week, the screen on my TV won’t stop flickering.

    **B.** Ever since I hit it with a football last week, the screen on my TV won’t stop flickering.

Which example is a COMPOUND-COMPLEX sentence?

11. **A.** If I run out of gas, you’re going to have to pay to fill my tank because you owe me twenty bucks.

    **B.** I’m running out of gas, and you’re going to have to pay for it this time because you owe me twenty bucks.

Do the following sentences combine independent and subordinate clauses correctly? Answer YES or NO.

12. **NO** Ever since the dance last month Logan thinks we’re going out, I don’t know how to tell him, that we’re not.

13. **YES** If you want me to buy you dinner, you have to pay me back tomorrow because I’m almost broke.

14. **YES** As I was pulling out, someone backed into my car.

15. **NO** I ate a lot of ice cream, before I went on my diet.

16. **NO** When I get sick. My mom makes me chicken soup.

Write your own example sentences:

**ANSWERS WILL VARY.**

17. Complex sentence:

18. Compound-complex sentence:
Match the following terms with the correct definition:

1. Complex Sentence _____ B
2. Compound-Complex Sentence _____ A
   A. A sentence that contains two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause
   B. A sentence that contains one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause

What type of sentence is each example?

3. Shawn wanted to ride his bike, and he didn’t care that his mom told him he couldn’t.
   a. Compound-complex
   b. Complex

4. He thinks about going into his room, but it smells like a locker room in there.
   a. Comound-complex
   b. Compound

5. When Mike was a kid, he was kind of a runt compared to the other boys.
   a. Compound
   b. Complex

6. My TV is an old piece of junk.
   a. Simple
   b. Compound

7. I will only come if Jamie is there.
   a. Complex
   b. Simple

8. Shannon left a note to tell her parents that she was going to be gone for a few days, and she got in the car and left before anyone could stop her.
   a. Complex
   b. Compound-complex

Which example is a COMPLEX sentence? Circle A or B.
9. **A.** Ever since the football game last week, the screen on my TV won’t stop flickering.
   **B.** Ever since I hit it with a football last week, the screen on my TV won’t stop flickering.

Which example is a **COMPOUND-COMPLEX** sentence?

10. **A.** If I run out of gas, you’re going to have to pay to fill my tank because you owe me twenty bucks.
    **B.** I’m running out of gas, and you’re going to have to pay for it this time because you owe me twenty bucks.

Do the following sentences combine clauses correctly? Answer YES or NO.

11. **NO** Ever since the dance last month Logan thinks we’re going out, I don’t know how to tell him, that we’re not.

12. **YES** If you want me to buy you dinner, you have to pay me back tomorrow because I’m almost broke.

13. **YES** As I was pulling out, someone backed into my car.

14. **NO** When I get sick. My mom makes me chicken soup.

Write your own example sentences: **ANSWERS WILL VARY.**

15. Complex sentence:
    If _____________________________________________________________,
    ______________________________________________________________.

16. Compound-complex sentence:
    **Even though** ________________________________________________,
    ______________________________________________________________, and
    ______________________________________________________________.
If you’re trying to decide what type of sentence a particular example is, the key is to figure out how many CLAUSES the sentence has.

- **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** – has a subject and a predicate and can stand alone as a sentence.
- **SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** – also has a subject and a predicate, but it cannot stand alone because it starts with a subordinate clause or a relative pronoun.

In the following sentences, underline each clause (subject and predicate) and decide which kind of clause it is. How many independent and subordinate clauses does each example have?

1. When watching a football game, Joe and his dad always cheer for opposite teams, and they usually end up getting mad at each other.
   
   **INDEPENDENT CLAUSES:** 2  
   **SUBORDINATE CLAUSES:** 0

2. Whenever Joe watches a football game with his dad, they always cheer for opposite teams, and they usually end up getting mad at each other because they just enjoy arguing with each other.
   
   **INDEPENDENT CLAUSES:** 2  
   **SUBORDINATE CLAUSES:** 2

3. Whenever Joe watches a football game with his dad, they always cheer for opposite teams until they finally end up getting mad at each other because they just enjoy arguing with each other.
   
   **INDEPENDENT CLAUSES:** 1  
   **SUBORDINATE CLAUSES:** 3

4. Whenever Joe watches a football game with his dad, they usually end up getting mad at each other, but they always enjoy arguing with each other.
   
   **INDEPENDENT CLAUSES:** 2  
   **SUBORDINATE CLAUSES:** 1

Now look back at the first four sentences. Decide what type of sentence each one was.

- **A COMPOUND SENTENCE** has TWO independent clauses
- **A COMPLEX SENTENCE** has ONE independent and at least ONE subordinate clause
- **A COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE** has TWO independent clauses and at least ONE subordinate clause

5. Sentence #1 **COMPOUND**  
6. Sentence #2 **COMPOUND-COMPLEX**  
7. Sentence #3 **COMPLEX**  
8. Sentence #4 **COMPOUND-COMPLEX**

SECOND PAGE ANSWERS: 7 , 8 ; X 9 , X 10 , , X
COMPLEX sentences and COMPOUND-COMPLEX sentences contain a combination of independent and subordinate clauses. Remember the rules for combining clauses:

There are only two correct ways to join TWO INDEPENDENT clauses:

- Put a comma ( , ) and a coordinating conjunction (and, but, so) between them
- Put a semi-colon ( ; ) between them

When you combine INDEPENDENT and SUBORDINATE clauses, do you need a comma between them?

- If the subordinate clause comes before an independent clause, you always need a comma ( , ) between them
- DON’T put a comma between them if the independent clause is first

In the following sentences, fill the blank boxes with punctuation mark (if no punctuation is needed, fill the box with an X):

7. Nick was sick with the flu so he had to cancel his Homecoming date.

8. That movie scared me half to death I have been sleeping with the lights on ever since I watched it.

9. My little sister made a huge mess in the kitchen but I was the one who had to clean it up because I always have to clean up her messes.

10. After James tripped and fell down the stairs his foot and ankle were swollen and his parents had to buy him crutches because he couldn’t walk or run without limping.

Now use the rules you’ve just practiced to combine the following clauses into one full sentence (rewrite the new sentence):

11. when I was just a kid / I used to love playing football with my friends

When I was just a kid, I used to love playing football with my friends.

12. as soon as Mary texts me back / we can go to the movie / we just need to pick up Mike first

As soon as Mary texts me back, we can go to the movie; we just need to pick up Mike first.

13. until I find my wallet / I can’t even buy food / because all my money was in that wallet

Until I find my wallet, I can’t even buy food because all my money was in that wallet.

14. Dad decided his hunting knife was too dull / but it must have been pretty sharp / because he cut his finger trying to sharpen it

Dad decided his hunting knife was too dull, but it must have been pretty sharp because he cut his finger trying to sharpen it.