

Understanding Complex Sentences

A complex sentence has:

- One main clause (a complete sentence that can stand alone)
- One or more subordinate clauses (these cannot stand alone and give more information)

Examples:

1. I didn't go outside because it was raining.

-> Main clause: I didn't go outside

-> Subordinate clause: because it was raining

2. She called me after she finished work.

-> Main clause: She called me

-> Subordinate clause: after she finished work

Common Subordinating Conjunctions:

because, although, if, when, while, since, after, before, unless

Part 1: Fill in the missing word

Use: because, when, although, if, after

1. I was tired _____ I went to bed early.

2. She smiled _____ she saw her puppy.

3. _____ it was raining, we played football.

4. I'll help you _____ I finish my homework.

5. We ate dinner _____ we got home.

Part 2: Match the clauses

Draw a line to match the beginning with the correct ending.

Beginnings:

1. I will go to the party
2. He didn't come to class
3. We stayed home
4. She was happy
5. They left early

Endings:

- a. because there was a storm.
- b. although he was feeling sick.
- c. if I finish my work.
- d. when she got the good news.
- e. because they were tired.

Part 3: Make a complex sentence

Use the words in brackets to make a full sentence.

1. I stayed inside (because / cold)
2. He passed the exam (although / study / little)
3. We will go out (if / not rain)
4. She called me (after / arrive / home)
5. I read a book (while / wait)