Simple, Compound, Complex

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Simple: one idea (*The dog barked.*) · **Compound:** two ideas joined with a comma and and/but/or/so (*The dog barked, so the cat ran.*) · **Complex:** a main idea plus a part starting with because, when, if, after or although (*The cat ran because the dog barked.*)

Look for the joining word: none → simple · and/but/or/so → compound · because/when/if → complex

1. Simple, compound or complex?

Circle the kind of sentence.



1	The puppy chased the ball.	simple	compound	complex
2	The puppy chased the ball, and Maya laughed.	simple	compound	complex
3	The puppy chased the ball until it got tired.	simple	compound	complex
4	We went to the lake on Sunday.	simple	compound	complex
5	It was sunny, so we went to the lake.	simple	compound	complex
6	Because it was sunny, we went to the lake.	simple	compound	complex
7	Leo forgot his lunch, but his friend shared.	simple	compound	complex
8	When Leo forgot his lunch, his friend shared.	simple	compound	complex

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2. Write one of each

Write three sentences about a snow day: one simple, one compound and one complex.

1. Simple

2. Compound (use and, but, or or so)

3. Complex (use because, when, if or after)

Answer Key

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1. Simple, compound or complex?

1	The puppy chased the ball.	**simple**	compound	complex
2	The puppy chased the ball, and Maya laughed.	simple	**compound**	complex
3	The puppy chased the ball until it got tired.	simple	compound	**complex**
4	We went to the lake on Sunday.	**simple**	compound	complex
5	It was sunny, so we went to the lake.	simple	**compound**	complex
6	Because it was sunny, we went to the lake.	simple	compound	**complex**
7	Leo forgot his lunch, but his friend shared.	simple	**compound**	complex
8	When Leo forgot his lunch, his friend shared.	simple	compound	**complex**

2. Write one of each

Answers will vary. These are examples.

1. Simple
   We built a snowman.
2. Compound (use and, but, or or so)
   It snowed all night, so school was closed.
3. Complex (use because, when, if or after)
   After we shovelled the driveway, we drank hot chocolate.