Compound and Complex Sentences

Compound Sentence:

A compound sentence consists of two complete sentences of equal importance; with one exception, they are joined with a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

* Computers can assist writers with the drafting of their essays, and they can help them with the revision of their essays.
* Many European immigrants arrived at Ellis Island in New York, but many Asian immigrants arrived at Angel Island in California.
* He does not act like a child, nor does he look like one.

There are seven coordinating conjunctions in the English language, each with its own meaning.

* Use *and* to indicate addition.
* Use *but* or *yet* to indicate a contrast or a contradiction.
* Use *so* or *for* to indicate a causal relationship.
* Use *or* to present alternatives.
* Use *nor* to eliminate alternatives.

Instead of a coordinating conjunction and a comma, some writers use a semicolon or a semicolon and a transitional word or phrase to join the two complete sentences.

* With new drugs, people can live with AIDS for years; many people, however, lack access to them.
* With new drugs, people can live with AIDS for years; however, many people lack access to them.

This list presents some frequently used transitional words that individuals use when writing compound sentences. Each word has its own meaning; therefore, individuals select one based on the meaning that they want to convey. For example, if they want to convey contrast, they select “however.”

 also instead otherwise

 consequently later still

 eventually meanwhile subsequently

 finally moreover then

 furthermore nevertheless therefore

 however now thus

This list presents some frequently used transitional phrases that individuals use when writing compound sentences. Each phrase has its own meaning; therefore, individuals select one based on the meaning that they want to convey. For example, if they want to introduce an illustration, they select “for instance.”

 after all in comparison

 as a result in contrast

 at the same time in fact

 for example in other words

 for instance of course

 in addition on the contrary

Complex Sentence:

A complex sentence consists of an incomplete sentence which begins with a subordinating conjunction and a complete sentence. If the incomplete sentence appears first, a comma is inserted between it and the complete sentence. The complete sentence contains the more important idea.

* Because the exhibit was controversial, many people came to view the paintings.
* Although Muhammad Ali was stripped of his championship boxing title for refusing to enter the army during the Vietnam War, many people admired his antiwar position.
* Pittsburgh was built where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet.

This list presents some frequently used subordinating conjunctions, each with its own meaning.

* To indicate time, use *after, before, now, since, until, when, whenever, while.*
* To indicate reason or effect, use *as, as if, because.*
* To indicate result or effect, use *in order that, in order to, so that.*
* To indicate condition, use *even if, if, unless.*
* To indicate contrast, use *although, even though, though, whereas.*
* To indicate location, use *where, wherever.*