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WRITING
EFFECTIVE SENTENCES

17 A

A Identifying Complex Sentences

As you learned in Chapter 16, an **independent clause** can stand alone as a sentence.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE The art exhibit was controversial.

However, a **dependent clause** cannot stand alone as a sentence.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE Because the art exhibit was controversial

What happened because the exhibit was controversial? To answer this question, you need to add an independent clause that completes the idea begun in the dependent clause. The result is a **complex sentence**—a sentence that consists of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

COMPLEX SENTENCE Because the art exhibit was controversial, many people came to see the paintings.

Culture Clue

A *diner* is a type of informal restaurant that serves typically American food (e.g., pancakes, hamburgers, sandwiches, and coffee). It usually includes a counter to sit at as well as booths or tables.

◆ PRACTICE 17-1

In the blank following each of the items below, indicate whether the group of words is an independent clause (*IC*) or a dependent clause (*DC*).

Example: The American diner began as a covered horse-drawn lunch wagon. IC

1. When lunch wagons added stools and counters in the late 1800s. ____
2. Some expanded lunch wagons had fancy woodwork and glass. ____
3. Because of laws that restricted operating hours. ____
4. Lunch wagon operators started opening diners. ____
5. The name *diner* came from railroad dining cars. ____
6. Because some diners were converted railroad cars. ____
7. Diners added bathrooms, booths, and landscaping in the 1920s to attract female customers. ____
8. Even though many diners moved from cities to suburbs after World War II. ____
9. Diners later competed with fast-food restaurants by adding brick walls and shingled roofs. ____

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Complex Sentences

10. Who by the 1980s made railroad-style diners popular again in the United States and Europe. ____

◆ PRACTICE 17-2

In the blank following each of the items below, indicate whether the group of words is an independent clause (*IC*) or a dependent clause (*DC*).

Example: When novelist Toni Morrison was born in Ohio in 1931.

DC

1. As a young reader, Toni Morrison liked the classic Russian novelists. ____
2. After she graduated from Howard University with a bachelor's degree in English. ____
3. Morrison based her novel *The Bluest Eye* on a childhood friend's prayers to God for blue eyes. ____
4. While she raised two sons as a single mother and worked as an editor at Random House. ____
5. As her reputation as a novelist grew with the publication of *Song of Solomon* and *Tar Baby*. ____
6. Her picture appeared on the cover of *Newsweek* in 1981. ____
7. Before her novel *Beloved* won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. ____
8. *Beloved* was later made into a film starring Oprah Winfrey. ____
9. In 1993, Morrison became the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. ____
10. Who published the novel *Paradise* in 1998 to mixed reviews. ____

B Using Subordinating Conjunctions

One way to form a complex sentence is to use a **subordinating conjunction**—a word like *although* or *because*—to join two simple sentences (independent clauses).

TWO SIMPLE SENTENCES Muhammad Ali was stripped of his heavyweight title for refusing to go into the army. Many people admired his antiwar position.

► Word Power

subordinate (adj) being lower in rank or position; secondary in importance

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COMPLEX SENTENCE DEPENDENT CLAUSE
 Although Muhammad Ali was stripped of his heavy-weight title for refusing to go into the army, many people admired his antiwar position.

Frequently Used Subordinating Conjunctions

after	even though	since	whenever
although	if	so that	where
as	if only	than	whereas
as if	in order that	that	whenever
as though	now that	though	whether
because	once	unless	while
before	provided that	until	
even if	rather than	when	

Different subordinating conjunctions express different relationships between dependent and independent clauses.

<i>Relationship between Clauses</i>	<i>Subordinating Conjunction</i>	<i>Example</i>
Time	after, before, since, until, when, whenever, while	<u>When the whale surfaced,</u> Ahab threw his harpoon.
Reason or cause	as, because	Scientists scaled back the project <u>because the government cut funds.</u>
Result or effect	in order that, so that	<u>So that students' math scores will improve,</u> many schools have begun special programs.
Condition	even if, if, unless	The rain forest may disappear <u>unless steps are taken immediately.</u>
Contrast	although, even though, though	<u>Although Thomas Edison had almost no formal education,</u> he was a successful inventor.
Location	where, wherever	Pittsburgh was built <u>where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet.</u>

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Complex Sentences

FOCUS Punctuating with Subordinating Conjunctions

In a complex sentence, use a comma after the dependent clause. Do not use a comma after the independent clause.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE INDEPENDENT CLAUSE
Although she wore the scarlet letter, Hester carried herself proudly.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE DEPENDENT CLAUSE
Hester carried herself proudly although she wore the scarlet letter.

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◆ PRACTICE 17-3

In the blank in each of the sentences below, write an appropriate subordinating conjunction. Look at the list of subordinating conjunctions on page 274 to help you choose a conjunction that establishes a logical relationship between the two clauses it links. (The required punctuation has already been added.)

ON THE WEB

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Example: When he was only six years old, Freddy Adu was playing soccer games with grown men.

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- (1) Freddy Adu's family moved from Ghana to the United States _____ he was still a young boy. (2) Freddy did not play organized soccer _____ he was in the fourth grade. (3) _____ he was still a teenager, Freddy became one of America's most famous soccer players. (4) His talent for soccer excites even professional players and coaches _____ they see him play. (5) _____ he was thirteen, he has been recruited by some of the best teams in the world. (6) One team offered his mother \$750,000 _____ Freddy would play for them. (7) _____ she needed the money, his mother turned down every offer. (8) The offers kept coming in _____ Freddy continued to win major competitions for young players. (9) _____ Freddy joined DC United, he became the highest-paid player in American soccer. (10) In 2007, _____ his contract was cancelled, Adu transferred to a team based in Lisbon, Portugal.

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◆ PRACTICE 17-4

Combine each of the following pairs of sentences to create one complex sentence. Use a subordinating conjunction from the list on page 274 to indicate the relationship between the dependent and independent clauses in each sentence. Make sure you include a comma where one is required.

Example: Orville and Wilbur Wright built the first powered plane/
although they
~~They~~ had no formal training as engineers.

1. Professional midwives are used widely in Europe, In the United States, they usually practice only in areas with few doctors.
2. John Deere constructed his first steel plow in 1837, A new era began in farming.
3. Stephen Crane describes battles in *The Red Badge of Courage*. He never saw a war.
4. Elvis Presley died in 1977, Thousands of his fans gathered in front of his mansion.
5. Jonas Salk developed the first polio vaccine in the 1950s, The number of polio cases in the United States declined.
6. The salaries of baseball players rose in the 1980s, Some sportswriters predicted a drop in attendance at games.
7. The Du Ponts arrived from France in 1800. American gunpowder was not as good as French gunpowder.
8. Margaret Sanger opened her first birth-control clinic in America in 1916, She was arrested and put in jail.
9. Thaddeus Stevens thought plantation land should be given to freed slaves, He disagreed with Lincoln's peace terms for the South.
10. Steven Spielberg directed some very popular movies. He did not win an Academy Award until *Schindler's List* in 1993.