

# Language Awareness for Key Stage 3

## 16: Complex Sentences — Part I

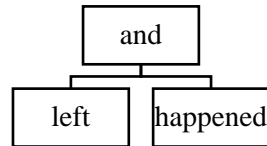
Key Terms	Optional Terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relative Pronoun</li><li>• Complementiser</li><li>• Conjunction</li><li>• Indirect Statement</li><li>• Indirect Question</li><li>• Clause</li><li>• Main Clause</li><li>• Subordinate Clause</li><li>• Relative Clause</li><li>• Restrictive</li><li>• Non-Restrictive</li><li>• Interrogative Pronoun</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Root Clause</li><li>• Matrix Clause</li><li>• Secondary Clause</li><li>• Subordination</li><li>• Embedding</li><li>• Relative Adverb</li><li>• Conditional</li><li>• Compound Sentence</li><li>• Symmetry</li></ul>

- Introduction: Complex Sentences
  - Today we will look at ways to combine simple sentences into a single, complex sentence
  - We will revisit forms that we have seen before, such as relative pronouns, complementisers, and other conjunctions
  - We will see how these forms allow sentences to be used in the same way as other parts of speech: adjectives, nouns, and adverbs
  - We will also see how complex sentences can include indirect questions
- Complex Sentences
  - A complex sentence is a sentence with one or more other sentences inside it
  - The outer part is the main clause (sometimes called the root or matrix clause)
  - The inner parts are subordinate clauses (sometimes called secondary or embedded clauses)
  - The subordinate clauses add something “extra” to the main sentence:
    - A modifier for a noun
    - A subject or object for a verb
    - An adverbial modifier
  - We will see examples of each of these types, one by one
- Relative Pronouns
  - One way to combine sentences is using **relative pronouns**
    - I saw a bird
    - You saw a bird
    - You saw the bird **that I saw**
  - The part of a complex sentence that depends on a relative pronoun is called a relative clause
  - Relative clauses often perform a function similar to adjectives, helping to modify, define or describe people and things
    - You saw the bird **that I saw**
    - You saw the same bird
  - Relative clauses are often divided into two types, restrictive and non-restrictive
  - Restrictive clauses are used to define something
    - Mary found the dog **that was lost**
      - All we know about the dog is that it is the one that was lost

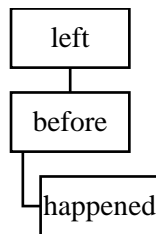
- Non-restrictive clauses describe something already known
  - Mary found John's dog, **which** was lost
    - *John's dog* tells us which dog it was, and the relative clause just tells us something extra about it
- In English, the rule of thumb is that *that* is used for restrictive clauses and who/which for non-restrictive clauses, but the full details of when each form is used are much more complex
- However, many languages always use the same word for each type of clause, as in French
  - Marie a trouvé le chien **qui** était perdu  
'Mary has found the dog that was lost'
  - Marie a trouvé son chien, **qui** était perdu  
'Mary has found his dog, which was lost'
- You can still tell the two types apart by their meaning, and usually by the comma before non-restrictive clauses (or a pause in speech)
- Like other pronouns, relative pronouns can have gender
  - Mary found John's son, **who** was lost
    - In this sentence, *who* is masculine
  - Mary found John's aunt, **who** was lost
    - In this sentence, *who* is feminine
  - Mary found John's wallet, **which** was lost
    - *Which* is neuter
- Relative pronouns can also have case
  - Mary spoke to John, **who** had lost his wallet
    - *Who* is nominative — it is the subject of had lost
  - Mary spoke to John, **whose** wallet was lost
    - *Whose* is possessive (genitive)
  - Mary spoke to John, **whom** she had just met
    - *Whom* is accusative — it is the object of had met
    - Sometimes people also use *who* as an accusative form
  - *That* always has the same form for all genders and cases
- We see the same patterns in other languages where pronouns show gender and case, such as German
  - Maria sprach mit Hans, **der** seine Brieftasche verloren hatte  
'Mary spoke with John, who had lost his wallet'
  - Maria sprach mit Hans, **dessen** Brieftasche verloren war  
'Mary spoke with John, whose wallet was lost'
  - Maria sprach mit Hans, **dem** sie gerade begegnet war  
'Mary spoke with John, whom she had just met'
  - Hans sprach mit Maria, **die** ihre Brieftasche verloren hatte  
'John spoke with Mary, who had lost her wallet'
  - Hans sprach mit Maria, **deren** Brieftasche verloren war  
'John spoke with Mary, whose wallet was lost'
  - Hans sprach mit Maria, **der** er gerade begegnet war  
'John spoke with Mary, whom he had just met'
- Relative Adverbs
  - There are also relative adverbs, which are very similar to relative pronouns
    - the place **where** something happened
    - the time **when** something happened
- Complementisers
  - Complementisers are another type of word that you may remember

- One use for complementisers is to let sentences be used as subjects or objects, in the same way as nouns
  - John has left
  - **That John has left** surprises me
    - This fact surprises me
  - **Whether John has left or not** is unimportant
    - This question is unimportant
- Because complementisers let sentences be used as subjects or objects, they can be used to form indirect questions and indirect statements
  - John has left
  - I wonder **whether John has left**
  - Mary says **that John has left**
- We will look more closely at indirect statements in the next lesson
- Note that *that* can be either a complementiser or a relative pronoun
  - If it is a relative pronoun, it will be modifying a noun
  - If it is a complementiser, it will normally be the subject or object of a verb
- Indirect Questions
  - Another way to form indirect questions is using interrogative pronouns
  - *Interrogative pronouns* are the ones used in questions
    - *Who* did that?
    - John asked who did that
  - In English, *interrogative pronouns* often look like **relative pronouns**
    - I saw who did it
    - I saw the person **who did it**
  - This is true in many other languages, such as French
    - J'ai vu qui l'a fait
    - J'ai vu la personne **qui l'a fait**
  - However, there are also languages where *interrogative pronouns* and **relative pronouns** have different forms
    - Ich habe gesehen, wer es gemacht hat (German)  
'I saw who did it'
    - Ich habe gesehen den Menschen, **der es gemacht hat**  
'I saw the person who did it'
    - Eídon tís epoiēsen autó (Greek)  
'I saw who did it'
    - Eídon tòn ánthrōpon **hòs epoiēsen autó**  
'I saw the person who did it'
- Subordinating Conjunctions
  - As you may remember, there are many conjunctions that can be used to combine sentences
  - These **conjunctions** modify the meaning of the sentence in some of the same ways as *adverbs*
    - John left
    - Something happened **after John left**
      - Something happened *then*
    - Something happened **although John left**
      - Something happened *anyway*
  - One important conjunction is *if*, which is used in conditional sentences
    - **If John left**, someone should bring him back
  - *If* can also be used as a complementiser, like *whether*
    - I asked **if John left**
  - As a complementiser, *if* creates a clause that can be used as the object of a verb (*ask*)

- Note that sentences like this do not have a conditional meaning
  - ~~‘If John left, then in that case I asked’~~
- You may remember the difference between coordinating conjunctions and subordinating conjunctions from an earlier lesson
- Coordinating conjunctions join two equal sentences to form a single compound sentence
  - John left **and** something happened



- Subordinating conjunctions subordinate one sentence to another and form a single complex sentence
  - John left **before** something happened



- The relationships expressed by coordinating conjunctions are more likely to be symmetrical
- This means that you can reverse the order without changing the meaning
  - John is Irish and Christina is Greek
  - Christina is Greek and John is Irish
- However, there are exceptions to this
- Conclusion
  - We have seen many different ways of combining simple sentences into a single, complex sentence
  - We have looked at relative pronouns, complementisers, and various conjunctions
  - We have seen different ways of forming indirect questions
  - We have also looked at the difference between subordination and coordination