

Language Awareness for Key Stage 3

17: Complex Sentences — Part II

Key Terms	Optional Terms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indirect Statement• Complementiser• Clause• Tense• Mood• Non-Finite• Infinitive• Gerund• Participle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct Speech

- Introduction: Complex Sentences
 - Today we will look at a specific type of complex sentence: indirect statements
 - We will also see how tense and mood can behave differently in simple and complex sentences
 - We will look at differences among languages in how they use tense and mood
 - We will also look at how sentences can be combined using non-finite verb forms
- Indirect Statements
 - As we saw last time, forming indirect statements is one use of complementisers
 - Indirect statements let you integrate what is said into a sentence about the person speaking
 - Mary said, “John left”
 - Mary said **that John left**
 - When changing from direct to indirect speech, sentences change to maintain a constant perspective
 - John says, “I have your book here”
 - John says **that he has my book there**
 - Everything that would only be correct from John’s point of view has to change to fit someone else’s point of view
 - In English, one of the things that changes is tense
 - John says, “Mary is ill”
 - John said **that Mary was ill**
 - You can also keep the tense unchanged
 - John said **that Mary is ill**
 - However, this means something different
 - It means that Mary is still ill when you are speaking, not just when John was speaking
 - However, there are other languages that do not do this
 - In languages like Japanese, tense is the same in direct and indirect speech
 - John said **that Mary was ill** ← John said, “Mary was ill”
 - John said **that Mary is ill** ← John said, “Mary is ill”
 - Mary may or may not still be ill
 - Indirect statements do not just occur with verbs like *say*
 - They are found with a variety of verbs, which allows you to say different things about the embedded sentence

- Changing the verb can change whether the embedded sentence is true or not
 - Mary is ill = Mary ill
 - John *knew* **that** Mary was ill = Mary ill
 - John *said* **that** Mary was ill = Mary ill or not ill
 - John *pretended* **that** Mary was ill = Mary not ill
- Tense and Mood
 - We have seen how indirect statements can involve a change in tense
 - Sometimes they can also involve a change of mood
 - You may remember that we have looked at the indicative and subjunctive moods in English
 - Mary was ill
 - John wished **that** Mary weren't ill
 - Some languages, such as French, make much more extensive use of the *subjunctive* in indirect statements
 - Marie est malade
'Mary is ill'
 - Je doute **que** Marie soit malade
'I doubt that Mary is ill'
 - Je ne doute pas **que** Marie est malade
'I don't doubt that Mary is ill'
 - You can see that this is connected to the use of the subjunctive for things that are less real
 - The subjunctive can also be used in situations where there is no doubt that something is true
 - Je suis désolé **que** Marie soit malade
'I'm sorry that Mary is ill'
 - This sentence does not mean that Mary isn't ill
 - The subjunctive might suggest that the connection between Mary's being ill and my being sorry is always the same, whether she is actually ill or not
- Non-Finite Clauses
 - So far we have looked at ways of embedding one sentence in another while keeping its original structure
 - There are other ways of embedding sentences that make greater changes
 - You may remember that one way is by converting a finite verb to a non-finite verb
 - In some cases, we can express the same idea using a finite clause or a non-finite clause
 - I believe **that** Mary is ill
 - I believe Mary to be ill
 - Note that finite verbs have a nominative subject, while infinitives have an accusative subject
 - I believe **that** she is ill
 - I believe her to be ill
 - Because non-finite verbs have no tense, there are some distinctions that are lost when you use them
 - I believe **that** Mary was ill ↘
 - I believe that Mary has been ill ↗ I believe Mary to have been ill
 - However, non-finite clauses are easier for some things, such as making passives
 - Mary is believed to have been ill
 - In some languages infinitives are the normal means of expressing indirect speech
 - Ιῴαννης φησὶ Μαρίαν εἶναι νοσῶδῃ (Greek)
 - Johannes dicit Mariam esse aegram (Latin)

'John says that Mary is ill'
(literally, 'John says Mary to be ill')

- It is also possible to replace finite clauses with **gerunds** or *participles*
 - Because Mary is ill, John is worried
 - Because of Mary's **being ill**, John is worried
 - Mary *being ill*, John is worried
- Conclusion
 - We have looked at the use of complex sentences for indirect statements
 - We have seen the different things that complex sentences let you say about an embedded sentence
 - We have also looked at the shifts in viewpoint involved in indirect statements
 - These shifts often require special changes in tense and mood
 - Finally, we have seen how non-finite clauses can be used instead of finite clauses.