MAIN CLAUSES & SENTENCE STRUCTURE

CEFR Level A2 — Elementary

English Language Worksheets | 4 Worksheets + Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Simple and Compound Sentences

One main clause, or two main clauses joined together.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Look and learn**

A simple sentence has ONE main clause. A compound sentence has TWO main clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction. Study the table.

Type	Structure	Example
simple	one main clause	The rain stopped.
compound (and)	clause + and + clause	The rain stopped and the sun came out.
compound (but)	clause + but + clause	I called her but she didn't answer.
compound (or)	clause + or + clause	We can stay or we can leave.
compound (so)	clause + so + clause	It was late, so we went home.

*Punctuation: put a **comma before** the conjunction when both clauses are long: It was raining hard, so we cancelled the picnic.*

PART B — **Simple or compound?**

Write S (simple) or C (compound) for each sentence.

1. I was hungry, so I made a sandwich. → _____
2. The train arrived on time. → _____
3. She studied hard but she failed the test. → _____
4. My brother lives in Berlin. → _____
5. You can call me or you can send an email. → _____
6. The film ended at midnight. → _____

Score: _____ / 6

Worksheet 2: Coordinating Conjunctions

and, but, or, so — and where the comma goes.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A **Fill in the gaps**

and • but • or • so

Complete each sentence with and, but, or or so. You may use a word more than once.

1. It was raining, _____ we took an umbrella.
2. He speaks Spanish _____ he doesn't speak French.
3. We can eat now _____ we can wait for Ana.
4. She opened the window _____ fresh air came in.
5. The shop was closed, _____ we went home.
6. I studied all night _____ I still felt unprepared.
7. Hurry up _____ we will miss the bus!
8. He picked up his bag _____ he left the room.

PART B **Add the missing comma**

Rewrite each sentence with a comma in the correct place, or write ‘no comma needed’.

1. The exam was difficult so many students failed it.
   _____
2. I like tea and coffee.
   _____
3. We waited for an hour but nobody came to the door.
   _____
4. She sings and she dances.
   _____
5. You must leave now or you will be late for work.
   _____

Score: _____ / 13

Worksheet 3: Fragments and Run-Ons

Two common mistakes: too little, or too much.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Look and learn**

Problem	What is wrong	Fix
fragment	not a complete sentence	‘Because I was tired.’ → ‘I went to bed because I was tired.’
run-on	two clauses with no join	‘It rained we stayed in.’ → ‘It rained, so we stayed in.’
comma splice	two clauses joined by only a comma	‘It rained, we stayed in.’ → ‘It rained, so we stayed in.’

Write F (fragment), R (run-on / comma splice) or OK for each item.

1. The bus was late, I missed my class. → _____
2. We ate dinner and then we watched a film. → _____
3. Although she tried very hard. → _____
4. He opened the box he found a letter. → _____
5. The concert starts at eight. → _____
6. Running through the park in the rain. → _____

PART B — **Fix them**

Rewrite each faulty sentence as a correct sentence.

1. “I was late, the train broke down.”
   _____
2. “When the film finished.”
   _____
3. “She called me I didn't hear the phone.”
   _____
4. “Because it was snowing heavily.”
   _____

Score: _____ / 10

Worksheet 4: Reading & Writing

Spot the sentence types, then write your own.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Analytical reading**

> *The alarm rang at six. Marek got up quickly, but he did not feel rested. He made a coffee and he packed his bag. The bus was already late, so he decided to walk. The streets were empty. He could take the long route or he could cut through the park. He chose the park. The trees were still wet from the rain, and the air smelled of earth. For the first time that week, Marek smiled.*

1. Find TWO simple sentences and TWO compound sentences in the text.

_____

_____

2. Which conjunctions does the writer use? List them.

_____

3. Why is there a comma in ‘The bus was already late, so he decided to walk.’?

_____

4. Rewrite ‘He chose the park.’ as a compound sentence.

_____

PART B — **Write a paragraph**

Write a paragraph (40–50 words) about your morning. Use at least TWO simple sentences and TWO compound sentences (with and, but, or, so).

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Word count: _____

Score: _____ / 11

ANSWER KEY & TEACHER NOTES

For teacher use only — A2 Level Worksheets

Main Clauses & Sentence Structure | English Language Worksheets

Worksheet 1 – Part B (Simple or compound?)

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
1–6	Sentence type	**1 C, 2 S, 3 C, 4 S, 5 C, 6 S**

Worksheet 2 – Conjunctions & Commas

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
A	Gaps 1–8 in order	**so, but, or, and, so, but, or, and**
B1	comma	**The exam was difficult, so many students failed it.**
B2	no second clause	**no comma needed ('tea and coffee' is not two clauses)**
B3	comma	**We waited for an hour, but nobody came to the door.**
B4	short clauses	**no comma needed ('She sings and she dances.' — both very short)**
B5	comma	**You must leave now, or you will be late for work.**

Worksheet 3 – Fragments & Run-Ons

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
A	F / R / OK 1–6	**1 R (comma splice), 2 OK, 3 F, 4 R (run-on), 5 OK, 6 F**
B1	comma splice	**I was late because the train broke down. / I was late; the train broke down.**
B2	fragment	**When the film finished, we went home. (add a main clause)**
B3	run-on	**She called me, but I didn't hear the phone.**
B4	fragment	**Because it was snowing heavily, the school closed. (add a main clause)**

Worksheet 4 – Reading & Writing

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
A1	Simple / compound	**Simple: 'The alarm rang at six.', 'The streets were empty.', 'He chose the park.' Compound: 'Marek got up quickly, but he did not feel rested.', 'He made a coffee and he packed his bag.', 'The bus was already late, so he decided to walk.'**
A2	Conjunctions used	**but, and, so, or**
A3	Why the comma?	**It joins two complete main clauses with 'so'; a comma goes before the conjunction.**
A4	compound rewrite	**e.g. 'He chose the park and he walked slowly.' (any correct compound sentence)**
B	Paragraph (40–50 words)	**Up to 6 marks: 2 correct simple sentences, 2 correct compound sentences, 2 for punctuation and accuracy.**