

What is a compound sentence?

A **compound sentence** is made up of **two or more independent clauses** (complete ideas) joined by a **conjunction** (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so - FANBOYS) or a **semicolon**.

👉 Each part could stand alone as a sentence, but they're joined to show the ideas are connected.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

What is a compound sentence?

Examples from the book:

- **To show contrast:**

  *"Dave and Sol-leks were unaffected, **but** the rest of the team went from bad to worse."*

- **To add detail and balance (**Spitz's fighting style):

  *"He never rushed till he was prepared to receive a rush**;** never attacked till he had first defended that attack."*

- **Emphasis on Spitz's skill and toughness to build credibility:**

  *"Spitz was an experienced fighter, **and** he had held his own with all manner of dogs across the Arctic and Canada."*

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Compound sentences in action!

Instructions: Complete each sentence using information from Chapters 1 and 2. Make sure your sentence is **compound** by joining two complete ideas with a conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

1. Buck was taken from Judge Miller's home, **and** _____.
2. The man in the red sweater beat Buck with a club, **so** _____.
3. Curly tried to make friends with another dog, **but** _____.
4. Violence is a way to show strength, **but** _____.
5. Life in the North was harsh, **so** _____.

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Let's take a look at this:

Buck got his lead dog team position.
Spitz was finally gone.

→ **When** Spitz was finally gone, **Buck got his lead dog team position.**

Buck became a strong, tough worker.
He was on the Yukon trail for many months.

→ **Because** he was on the Yukon trail for many months, **Buck became a strong, tough worker.**

Dave was very sick.
He fought to stay in his place on the sled team.

→ **Although** Dave was very sick, **he fought to stay in his place on the sled team.**

Buck learned to protect his food.
The other sled dogs were always hungry and trying to steal.

→ **Buck learned to protect his food**, because the other sled dogs were always hungry and trying to steal.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

What is a complex sentence?

A **Complex Sentence** is a sentence that combines one complete, full idea (**independent clause**) with one incomplete, supporting idea (**dependent clause**).

Writers use complex sentences to show **relationships** between ideas, like *cause and effect* ("because"), *time* ("when"), or *condition* ("although").

- *There was no hope for him, because Buck was unstoppable.*
- *When Spitz attacked Pike, Buck jumped in to protect him.*
- *Buck avoided fights, although he hated Spitz.*
- *Buck waited, while Spitz showed his teeth."*

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The two parts of a complex sentence

The Independent Clause (The Main Idea)

- **Definition:** This is a **full thought**. It has a subject and a verb and can stand alone as a simple sentence. It is the most important part.
- **Simple Test:** If you remove the rest of the sentence, the **Independent Clause** still makes perfect sense.
- **Example:**

  There was no hope for him, ~~because Buck was unstoppable~~.

The Dependent Clause (The Supporting Idea)

- **Definition:** This is an **incomplete thought**. It has a subject and a verb, but it starts with a special word (called a **subordinating conjunction**) that makes it unable to stand alone. It needs help from the main idea.
- **Simple Test:** If you try to say the **Dependent Clause** by itself, it sounds like a question or a fragment that needs more information.
- **Examples of subordinating conjunction:** *because, when, although, since, if.*
- *~~Buck avoided fights,~~ although he hated Spitz.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Complex sentences in action!

Instructions: Complete each sentence using information from Chapter 4.

1. **When** the dogs saw a defeated Spitz on the ground, _____.
2. **Since** Dave was becoming sicker with every mile, _____.
3. The team of dogs changed owner, **since** _____.
4. Francois hugged Buck and cried, **because** _____.
5. **Since** the trail was so long and exhausting, _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Let's take a look at this:

Buck felt the freezing cold hit his fur, and he was very hungry and he tried to find a safe spot quickly. And then he started running through the thick snow and then mountains got bigger very quickly and then a cruel wind started biting him. And then he realized he couldn't keep going. So he curled his body tightly. And then he rested near a large pine tree.

Although *he was* ***very hungry when*** *Buck felt the* ***sharp*** *Yukon cold hit his fur, he still looked for a* ***safe*** *spot before running into the snow.* ***When*** *the* ***tall*** *mountains got* ***bigger*** *and the* ***strong*** *wind began to* ***bite*** *his skin, he started to* ***worry, because*** *he suddenly realized his* ***tired body*** *would not carry him much farther.* ***Since*** *he couldn't* ***stop*** *in the open, he curled his body tighter and* ***rested*** *near a* ***big*** *pine tree.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS