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# Phrases, Clauses, and Complex Sentences

## Introduction

Tell students that they will be learning more about sentences in this unit. Using different types of sentences can make their writing more interesting. Phrases and clauses are parts of sentences. By using them correctly, students can tell more using fewer words.

## Parent Letter

Include this sample parent letter in your classroom newsletter, on your website, or in your blog.

Dear Parents,

We are going to study sentences and parts of sentences in our *Exploring English Grammar* book.

- » We will learn about prepositions and prepositional phrases.
- » We will identify independent and dependent clauses in sentences.
- » We will identify and write complex sentences.
- » We will recognize subject-verb agreement.

Here are some activities to do with your child to help with what we are learning:

- » Use the language vocabulary your child is learning as you read together or talk about your child's writing.
- » At the library, encourage your child to check out factual books as well as those that tell a story.

Thank you for your help at home!

**Objective** To identify and write complex sentences

**Enrichment** Have students look at pictures of some murals. Then have them write complex sentences describing one of the scenes.

**Working with the Lesson**

**Remember** Read and discuss this section. Look at the examples. Identify the independent and dependent clauses.

**Think About** Have the students work as a group, with a partner, or individually.

**Read and Apply** Read the directions as a class. Let students complete this section independently.

**Write About** Read the directions as a class. Have students complete this section independently. Allow time for students to share their paragraphs with the class.

**Review** Read the directions together. Then have students work independently to complete the activity. Review the answers as a class.

**Lesson 3** **Complex Sentences**

**Remember** A **complex sentence** is made up of an independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

**One Dependent Clause** Dominic ate some cake even though he was full.


**Two Dependent Clauses** After he finished, Dominic wished that he had not eaten so much.

**Think About** What is the difference between a complex sentence and a compound sentence?

**A compound sentence has two independent clauses, and a complex sentence has an independent clause and a dependent clause.**

**Read and Apply** Read the sentences. Underline the complex sentences.

Murals are large paintings. They are done on walls or ceilings of buildings. Since they are part of the building, artists try to work the style of the building into the painting. Murals have been made since ancient times, when they were often used in tombs and palaces. Murals usually show scenes that people recognize. Some artists use murals to give their opinions about current events. Other artists paint peaceful scenes because people enjoy looking at them. When a group makes a mural, the different styles can blend together.



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**Write About** Write a paragraph telling about a type of art you enjoy. Write at least two complex sentences. Underline them.

*Answers will vary.*

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**Review** Read the sentences. Fill in the circle next to each complex sentence.

- If you eat that mushroom, you might get sick.
- After 5:00, the trains are very full.
- Marco put the glass in the sink when he was finished.
- Amhi went for a run before she took a shower.
- Many people have a fear of being in a closed space.
- Mrs. Carson shut the door when she left the room.

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