**Class 8: Complex Sentences and Prepositions**

1. **Learning Objectives:** Learners will be able to:
2. Use distinctively commonly used prepositions in manuscript writing in English;
3. Use correctly complex sentences in manuscript writing in English.
4. **Rationale**

We have covered simple sentences in class 1 and compound sentences in class 6. A simple sentence is used to express one single simple and complete idea or thought very clearly at a time. In the imaginary world, one can think that the writing will be simple to read and to understand if we only use simple sentences. We cannot use only simple sentences because it is difficult to show relationships between ideas1. Compound sentences are used to express equally important ideas in simple sentences linked by a conjunction or a punctuation (semi colon or colon). In manuscript writing, we need complex sentences to show the relationship between different ideas. Simple and compound sentences are still important, but academic writing relies heavily on complex sentences to build arguments by relating ideas2.

1. **Activities**

**Activity 1**

***Instructions:*** *Ask the learners what they know about complex sentences first before you explain the rule.*

**Rule**: For simplicity, the structure of a compound sentence is:

**Option 1**: Subject 1+ Verb 1 ± Object 1 + a preposition + Subject 2+ Verb 2 ± Object 2.

**Example 1**: The lab technician came back to the lab after he set up his PCR reactions in the morning.

**Option 2**: A preposition + Subject 2+ Verb 2 ± Object 2, Subject 1+ Verb 1 ± Object 1.

**Example 2**: After he set up his PCR reactions in this morning, the lab technician came back to the lab early today.

In either option, you have a simple sentence also called an independent clause “He set up his PCR reactions in the morning.” and a dependent clause “after he set up his PCR reactions in the morning.”

**Note**: More than one independent clause can be associated with the dependent clause in a complex sentence.

**Example 3**: The boss came to the office at 6 AM, he checked his emails at 8 AM, and he rushed into the branch meeting at 10 AM this morning because he was running late.

***Instructions: Advise learners to stick to option 1 as long as possible.***

Prepositions are commonly used in academic writing3,4.

**Activity 2**

***Instructions:*** *ask learners to form small groups. Each small group writes 20 compound sentences on a sheet of paper and shares with another small group to check the correctness of the structure first and the correctness of the sentence. Use the rules of editing a simple sentence. Return the corrected sentences to their respective small groups and discuss on the board sentences subject to discordances.*

**Activity 3**

***Instructions:*** *ask learners to write in a word document 20 complex sentences with discipline-specific words. Each group member brings five sentences for the small group to select and combine for the assignment or group homework.*

1. **Evaluation**
2. *What is the structure of a complex sentence?*
3. **References**

# PressBooks. [Better writing from the beginning](https://pressbooks.pub/wr121opentextbook17/). Why can’t we use simple sentences for everything? Available at <https://pressbooks.pub/wr121opentextbook17/chapter/compound-sentences/> consulted on June 3rd, 2023.

# Lingard, L. Mastering the sentence. Perspect Med Educ 6, 51–53 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40037-016-0315-z>

# Kevin at Wordvice. Using Prepositions in Research Writing. Available at <https://blog.wordvice.com/common-research-paper-writing-mistakes-prepositions/> published 30 November 2022 and consulted on 07 June 2023.

#### [Hilde van Zeeland](https://blog.writefull.com/author/hilde/). Academic writing errors to avoid: Prepositions. Available at <https://blog.writefull.com/academic-writing-errors-to-avoid-prepositions/> published on March 8, 2021 and consulted on 07 June 2023.