

**Chapter 17: The Clause**

# Sentence Structure B

A compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and *at least* one subordinate clause.

Chess, which is a game of wit and skill, can be rewarding, but it can also be discouraging. [There are two independent clauses: *Chess can be rewarding* and *it can also be discouraging*. There is one subordinate clause: *which is a game of wit and skill*.]

**Exercise A** In the following sentences, underline each independent clause once and each subordinate clause twice. Then, on the line provided, write Yes if the sentence is compound-complex. Write No if it is not.

- No 1. Songkran, the Water Festival of Thailand, lasts for three days.
- Yes 2. Some people, who spray water over the crowds, also carry large statues of Buddha down the street, and others set birds free.
- Yes 3. People wear new clothes; they also carry bowls that contain fish to the river, where they release the fish.
- No 4. Children show respect for their parents by pouring perfumed water into the adults' hands.
- No 5. After the Queen of the Water Festival is chosen, people sing and dance.

**Exercise B** Classify each of the following sentences according to structure by writing S for simple, Cd for compound, Cx for complex, or Cd-Cx for compound-complex.

- S 1. In Pakistan, the twenty-ninth night of Ramadan is the night of a big feast.
- CX 2. It is traditional that the house is cleaned so that it will sparkle for the celebration.
- S 3. Children get up early in the morning and put on their best clothes. (Compound Verb)
- CD 4. All day long they eat sweet candies and spicy morsels; then they go off to fairs to see fireworks.
- CX 5. In Japan, when the peach trees bloom in March, the festival Hina Matsuri takes place.
- CD 6. Then Toshiko unpacks her cherished collection of old dolls, for the feast is the Girls' Doll Festival. (Adverb)
- CC 7. Mothers tell daughters tales that fascinate the girls; also, the adults teach the girls how to prepare special foods for visitors.
- CX 8. After the celebration is over, the dolls are packed away for another year.
- S 9. In India, Holi is a day of frivolity celebrated every year in late February or March.
- CC 10. Throughout the day, young and old squirt each other's hair and clothes with colored water, so all the participants wear old clothing, for they know that by twilight their attire will be a hodgepodge of brilliant dyes.

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**Review (Form A)**

**Exercise A** The following short paragraph contains ten numbered, italicized clauses. On the line provided, identify the type of clause each one is. Write ADJ for adjective clause, ADV for adverb clause, or N for noun clause.

My oldest sister has a Siamese cat [1] *whose name is Chang*. Chang, [2] *who reminds me of a pampered child*, possibly doesn't realize [3] *that he is only a cat*. He does know [4] *that he is an important individual*. In fact, in our house he acts [5] *as if he were the lord and master*. [6] *When we sit down to eat*, Chang leaps eagerly and promptly to the top of our table radio, [7] *which is "Chang's place"*. [8] *As he sits there quietly*, he purrs his contentment and accepts the morsels of food [9] *that we give him*. Luckily, he likes to eat almost everything [10] *that we like ourselves*.

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. <u>ADJ</u> | 6. <u>ADV</u>  |
| 2. <u>ADJ</u> | 7. <u>ADJ</u>  |
| 3. <u>N</u>   | 8. <u>ADV</u>  |
| 4. <u>N</u>   | 9. <u>ADJ</u>  |
| 5. <u>ADV</u> | 10. <u>ADJ</u> |

**Exercise B** On the line provided before each sentence, tell what type of sentence each one is. Write S for simple, CX for complex, CD for compound, or CD-CX for compound-complex.

- S 1. Occasionally, however, Chang eats a meal in an independent fashion.
- CX 2. One Friday, for example, my mother bought fish, which is Chang's favorite food.
- S 3. Not paying much attention to Chang, she stored the fish on a shelf in the refrigerator and went about putting away the other groceries. (Compound Verb)
- CD 4. A few minutes later I got home from school and, being hungry, I went directly to the refrigerator.
- CX 5. When I opened the door, I jumped back in surprise.
- S 6. Inside was Chang, gulping down big chunks of fish and showing his (Compound Verb) delight by swishing his tail through the butter.
- CC 7. Unaware of the danger of suffocation, Chang was not in the least eager to get out of the refrigerator, not did he seem pleased that I had rescued him.
- CC 8. When Mother saw him, she grabbed him by the neck and put him out the back door; then she threw what was left of the fish out the back door, too.
- CX 9. On being told about the incident, Father, who usually doesn't find cats very amusing, laughed heartily.
- CX 10. When Mother told him how much the fish had cost, he abruptly stopped laughing.