Compound and Complex Sentences

A **simple sentence** expresses one complete thought. A **compound sentence** contains two simple sentences joined by a comma and a word such as *and, but,* or *or.*

Simple sentences: Baseball players run bases. Custodians sweep floors.
Compound sentence: Baseball players run bases, and custodians sweep floors.

A **complex sentence** is made up of a simple sentence and another part. In a complex sentence, the other part cannot stand alone as a simple sentence. The other part is joined to the sentence with a word such as *if, because,* or *when.*

Complex sentence: When a home run is hit, the crowd cheers.
not a sentence simple sentence

Directions: Write whether each sentence is **compound** or **complex.**

_____ **1.** Babe Ruth hit many home runs, but it took much effort.

_____ **2.** If he struck out, he tried even harder the next time.

_____ **3.** He had many hits, but not all of them were home runs.

_____ **4.** When he became too old to play, he retired.

_____ **5.** Because of his talent, Babe Ruth became very famous.

_____ **6.** Fans loved to see home runs, and they loved the great hitter.

Directions: Choose the group of words that will complete each sentence and make sense. Write the complete sentence on the line. Add a comma, if necessary.

7. You can hit the ball over the fence _____.
(because you need to practice first/but you need to practice first)

_____

8. The ball was pitched _____.
(after the game was over/and the batter struck out)

_____

9. Although many players hit the ball hard, _____.
(but they sometimes hit home runs/only a few can hit home runs)

_____

10. Many people play baseball _____.
(if the player is good/but only a few play professionally)

_____

Notes for Home: Your child identified compound and complex sentences. ***Home Activity:*** Say a simple sentence, such as *I went to work today.* Challenge your child to expand it by changing it into either a complex or a compound sentence.

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