

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

CONNECTING TO THE THEME

What can you do to make a good first impression? Which of the tips below do you think may help?

- 1 You should be neat and well-dressed.
- 2 You should make eye contact with the other person.
- 3 You should talk a lot about yourself.
- 4 You should be comfortable, but you shouldn't look too casual.
- 5 You should ask about the other person when the time is right.

1, 2, 4, and 5 will help you make a good first impression.

A. Skill Presentation

When you write, you should use a combination of simple, compound, and complex sentences.

A **simple sentence** has one or more subjects and one or more verbs. It has only one **independent clause** and expresses only one complete idea. Both of the following simple sentences have one independent clause, but the number of subjects and verbs varies.

Ethan is confident. (1 subject + 1 verb)

Ethan and Vicky feel important and look confident. (2 subjects + 2 verbs)

A **compound sentence** has two or more subjects and two or more verbs. It has at least two related independent clauses that are joined by a **coordinating conjunction**, such as *and*, *but*, *or*, or *so*.

— **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** — — **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** —

Ethan is confident, **and** he makes a good first impression.

Ethan and Vicky are confident, **but** their sister isn't confident at all.

A **complex sentence** has two or more subjects and two or more verbs. It has an independent clause that is connected to a **dependent clause**. The dependent clause starts with a **subordinating conjunction**, such as *after*, *before*, *when*, *because*, *although*, or *if*.

— **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** — — **DEPENDENT CLAUSE** —

Ethan is usually selfish, **although** he sometimes thinks of other people.

Ethan will get the job **if** he makes a good impression.



B. Over to You

1 Read the sentences. Decide if they are simple, compound, or complex. Write **S** for Simple, **C** for Compound, or **CX** for Complex.

- ___ 1 Tom made a good impression, so he got the job.
- ___ 2 Jason seems friendly, although he is very shy.
- ___ 3 Nancy and Lorena have a lot of friends.

2 Read the paragraph and check (✓) the correct answers.

First impressions are important in an interview. *You will make a good impression if you follow some important steps.* **Confident people often make good first impressions.** *Employers may feel uncomfortable when you do not seem confident.* **Your clothing can also make a good first impression.** Clean and neat clothing makes a good impression, and a neat hairstyle also shows professionalism. *Messy clothing does not make a good impression because people associate it with laziness.* You do not have to wear expensive clothing, but you can still dress nicely. **Finally, your body language says a lot about you.** *You should not move around too much, although you do not have to be perfectly still.* **You can follow this advice for your next interview.**

1 The sentences in **bold** are

- a. simple sentences.
- b. compound sentences.
- c. complex sentences.

2 The *italicized* sentences are

- a. simple sentences.
- b. compound sentences.
- c. complex sentences.

3 The underlined sentences are

- a. simple sentences.
- b. compound sentences.
- c. complex sentences.



CHECK!

- 1 A _____ sentence has at least one subject and at least one _____. It has only one independent clause.
- 2 A _____ sentence has at least two subjects and at least two verbs. It has at least two _____ clauses that are related to each other.
- 2 A _____ sentence has at least two subjects and at least two verbs. It has a _____ clause that is connected to an independent clause.

C. Practice

- 1 Read each sentence in the chart. Decide if it is simple, compound, or complex. Check (✓) the box in the correct column.**

	SIMPLE SENTENCE	COMPOUND SENTENCE	COMPLEX SENTENCE
1. Confident people are usually happy.			
2. Cheerful people often get jobs easily because they are usually pleasant coworkers.			
3. My friend Jenny makes a bad first impression.			
4. Jenny seems negative when she meets people for the first time.			
5. She has friends, but she does not always keep them for very long.			
6. Negative people usually do not get jobs easily, but Jenny found a good job.			
7. Negative people can be unreasonable, and they can be difficult to work with.			
8. Negative people have many unpleasant characteristics, although they have good ones, too.			
9. Jenny likes telling jokes and making people laugh.			
10. Jenny is a good worker because she has many positive characteristics.			

- 2 Read the sentences. Write the number of independent and dependent clauses. If there are no clauses of a certain type, write X.**

- The new employee made a positive first impression.
___ independent clause(s), ___ dependent clause(s)
- Employers often look at your clothing, so you should dress nicely for an interview.
___ independent clause(s), ___ dependent clause(s)
- John had a good interview, although his dirty suit made a bad first impression.
___ independent clause(s), ___ dependent clause(s)
- Mario is a great leader because he is passionate about his work.
___ independent clause(s), ___ dependent clause(s)
- Kim and Jocelyn are not very good leaders.
___ independent clause(s), ___ dependent clause(s)
- Some people make judgments about others, but first impressions are not always correct.
___ independent clause(s), ___ dependent clause(s)
- Employers sometimes make incorrect judgments about workers.
___ independent clause(s), ___ dependent clause(s)



D. Skill Quiz

Check (✓) the correct answer for each item.

1 Which phrase describes a simple sentence?

- a. two or more subjects, two or more verbs, two independent clauses
- b. two or more subjects, two or more verbs, an independent clause, a dependent clause
- c. one or more subjects, one or more verbs, one independent clause

2 Which phrase describes a compound sentence?

- a. two or more subjects, two or more verbs, two independent clauses
- b. two or more subjects, two or more verbs, an independent clause, a dependent clause
- c. one or more subjects, one or more verbs, one independent clause

3 Which phrase describes a complex sentence?

- a. two or more subjects, two or more verbs, two independent clauses
- b. two or more subjects, two or more verbs, one independent clause, one dependent clause
- c. one or more subjects, one or more verbs, one independent clause

4 When you write a paragraph, you can include

- a. only simple sentences.
- b. simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- c. exactly one compound sentence and one complex sentence.

5 *Good employees arrive on time.*

How many dependent clauses does this sentence have?

- a. zero
- b. one
- c. two

6 *Managers need to listen to people if there is a problem.*

How many independent clauses does this sentence have?

- a. zero
- b. one
- c. two

7 *Employers should not hire people based on personal judgments, and they should not pay attention to stereotypes.*

How many independent clauses does this sentence have?

- a. one
- b. two
- c. three

8 *Joanna and Kyle form opinions about others quickly.*

What type of sentence is this?

- a. simple
- b. compound
- c. complex

9 *Opinions may be incorrect if they are based on personal preferences.*

What type of sentence is this?

- a. simple
- b. compound
- c. complex

10 *Mark did not make a good impression, so Mr. Weston did not hire him.*

What type of sentence is this?

- a. simple
- b. compound
- c. complex