

Worksheet 1

The Vanishing Author

Identifying Types of Sentences

The story of *The Vanishing Author* uses a wide variety of **complex** and **compound** sentences. What is the difference? Well, a complex sentence is a sentence that contains an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses whereas a **compound** sentence consists of two or more independent clauses.

To fully understand this, we need to know what a **clause** is. A **clause** is a group of words that contains a *subject* and *predicate* (a comment about the subject *that must include a verb*) e.g. The dog (*subject*) *ran* along the beach (*predicate*). Clauses can be independent which means it can make sense on its own (e.g. The girl jumped on the trampoline) or dependent which means it give additional information about the main clause but cannot make sense on its own (until the sun went down).

Look at these examples:

Agatha Christie is famous throughout the world because she is a bestselling mystery writer. This is a complex sentence – it contains an independent clause (in bold) and a dependent clause (underlined). What about this one?

She was so successful during her life that **she became a very wealthy woman**. This is a compound sentence - it contains two independent clauses (both in bold).

Task 1: Rewrite the following sentences from *The Vanishing Author* by highlighting the independent clauses (in bold type or highlighter pen) and underlining the dependent clauses.

1. Agatha was born into a well to do family, and lived in the peaceful seaside town of Torquay.
2. It was Margaret who challenged Agatha to write a really good detective story – she was already a great fan of detective stories.
3. Since Torquay was full of Belgian refugees, she decided to create a Belgian detective.
4. It created a scandal because the narrator also turned out to be the murderer!
5. When Agatha heard about this relationship, she was overcome with shock.
6. The ignition and headlights were on, but there was no sign of Mrs Christie.
7. She left the headlights on and there was a suitcase and coat on the seat.
8. She wrote a letter to Archie's brother, telling him that she was going north for a break.
9. She addressed it to his office, knowing that he would not read it till Monday.

Task 2: Identify each sentence above as a complex or compound sentence.

Extension Activity:

- Create a slide show presentation about the difference between complex and compound sentences. Display it to an appropriate audience.