LECTURE SHEET

Transformation of Sentences

Simple ⇄ Compound ⇄ Complex

English Grammar | Classes 9–12 (SSC / HSC) | Curriculum 2026/27

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Three kinds of sentence

Kind	Rule	Example
Simple sentence	Has only one finite verb and one subject.	He is a good boy.
Compound sentence	Two simple sentences joined by a conjunction (and / but / or). Needs two finite verbs. The subject may be omitted after and/but if it is the same.	He is poor but is happy.
Complex sentence	One principal clause plus one or more subordinate clauses joined by since, when, as, though, although, after, before, that, how, if etc.	If you come here, I shall accompany you.

Rule 1: V-ing phrase → and / When-Since-As

- **Simple:** V-ing phrase + , + sub + verb + related word (2nd part)
- **Compound:** Sub + verb + V-ing part + and + 2nd part
- **Complex:** Since/As/When + sub + verb + related word + , + sub + verb + related word

Simple	Compound	Complex
Seeing the police, the thief ran away.	The thief saw the police and he ran away.	When the thief saw the police, he ran away.
Closing the door, I went back to work.	I closed the door and I went back to work.	When I closed the door, I went back to work.
Forgetting him, I went out.	I had forgotten him and I went out.	As I had forgotten him, I went out.
Killing the bird, the old man brought bad luck to the crew.	The old man killed the bird and he brought bad luck to the crew.	Since the old man killed the bird, he brought bad luck to the crew.
The meeting being over, we went back home.	The meeting was over and we went back home.	When the meeting was over, we went back home.
The weather being very cold, there were no birds or animals in the snow covered country.	The weather was very cold and there were no birds or animals in the snow covered country.	Since the weather was very cold, there were no birds or animals in the snow covered country.
Having finished my lessons, I went to bed.	I had finished my lessons and I went to bed.	When I had finished my lessons, I went to bed.

N.B. If the first clause of the complex sentence has am/is/are/was/were, use 'being' in the simple sentence; if it has have/has/had, use 'having'. Nothing else changes.

Rule 2: Because of → and so / Since-As

- **Simple:** Because of + possessive adjective + noun, + 2nd clause (alternative: Because of + poss. adj. + being/having + adj./noun)
- **Compound:** Sub + verb + related word, and so + 2nd clause
- **Complex:** Since/As + sub + verb + related word, + 2nd clause

Simple	Compound	Complex
Because of my illness, I could not attend the school.	I was ill and so, I could not attend the school.	Since I was ill, I could not attend the school.
Because of his being weak, the old man could not attend the court.	The old man was weak and so, he could not attend the court.	Since the old man was weak, he could not attend the court.
Because of his having integrity, Salim was loved by all.	Salim had integrity and so, he was loved by all.	As Salim had integrity, he was loved by all.
Because of his very small size, he could not work hard.	He was small and so, he could not work hard.	Since he was small, he could not work hard.

N.B. am/is/are → 'being' in the simple sentence; have/has/had → 'having'.

Rule 3: In spite of → but / Although-Though

- **Simple:** In spite of + possessive + V-ing/being/having + related word + 2nd part
- **Compound:** Sub + verb + related word + but + 2nd part
- **Complex:** Although + sub + verb + related word + , + 2nd part

Simple	Compound	Complex
In spite of his trying heart and soul, he could not succeed.	He tried heart and soul but he could not succeed.	Although he tried heart and soul, he could not succeed.
In spite of his being poor, he is honest.	He is poor but he is honest.	Although he is poor, he is honest.
In spite of his having vast riches, the man wants more.	The man has vast riches but he wants more.	Although the man has vast riches, he wants more.
In spite of his working hard, he could not succeed.	He worked hard but he could not succeed.	Although he worked hard, he could not succeed.
In spite of his running fast, he could not get the train.	He ran fast but he could not get the train.	Though he ran fast, he could not get the train.

Rule 4: too ... to → very ... and so / so ... that

- **Simple:** Sub + too + adj./adv. + to + verb + related word
- **Compound:** Sub + very/extremely + adj./adv. + and so + sub + can't/couldn't + base verb + related word
- **Complex:** Sub + verb + so + adj./adv. + that + sub + can't/couldn't + verb + related word

Simple	Compound	Complex
He is too poor to buy a car.	He is very poor and so, he can't buy a car.	He is so poor that he can't buy a car.
The man is too weak to walk.	The man is very weak and so, he can't walk.	The man is so weak that he can't walk.
The problem was too hard for them to solve.	The problem was extremely hard and so, they couldn't solve it.	The problem was so hard that they couldn't solve it.

Rule 5: Without V-ing → Imperative + or / If ... not

- **Simple:** Without + V-ing + related word, + sub + related word
- **Compound:** Imperative (adj./adv.) + or + sub + auxiliary + not + base verb + related word
- **Complex:** If + sub + do not + base verb + related word, + 2nd clause

Simple	Compound	Complex
Without working hard, you will not prosper in life.	Work hard or you will not prosper in life.	If you do not work hard, you will not prosper in life.
Without reading attentively, you will not pass the exam.	Read attentively or you will not pass the exam.	If you do not read attentively, you will not pass the exam.
Without moving, you will die.	Move or you will die.	If you do not move, you will die.
Without playing well, you will not win the game.	Play well or you will not win the game.	If you do not play well, you will not win the game.
Without writing much, you cannot write well.	Write much or you cannot write well.	If you do not write much, you cannot write well.

Rule 6: By V-ing → Imperative + and / If

- **Simple:** By + V-ing + related word, + 2nd clause
- **Compound:** Base verb + related word + and + 2nd clause
- **Complex:** If + sub + verb + related word, + 2nd clause

Simple	Compound	Complex
By eating balanced diet, you can keep a sound body.	Eat balanced diet and you can keep a sound body.	If you eat balanced diet, you can keep a sound body.
By working hard, you will shine in life.	Work hard and you will shine in life.	If you work hard, you will shine in life.
By running fast, you can win the prize.	Run fast and you can win the prize.	If you run fast, you can win the prize.

Rule 7: Noun + being/having → and so / Since-When

- **Simple:** Noun/Pronoun + being/having + related word, + 2nd clause
- **Compound:** Noun/Pronoun + be/have verb + related word + and so + 2nd clause
- **Complex:** When/Since + sub + be/have verb + related word, + 2nd clause

Simple	Compound	Complex
The sea water being very salty, they could not drink it.	The sea water was very salty and so, they could not drink it.	Since the sea water was very salty, they could not drink it.
The sun having set, we returned home.	The sun had set and we returned home.	When the sun had set, we returned home.

Rule 8: to + verb → and so / so that

- **Simple:** NP + verb + ... + to + verb + related word
- **Compound:** NP + wanted to + verb + ... + and so, + NP + verb + related word
- **Complex:** NP + verb + ... + so that + NP + can/could/may/might + verb + related word

Simple	Compound	Complex
I went there to see him.	I wanted to see him and so, I went there.	I went there so that I might see him.

The authoress wanted quiet isolation to do some troublesome writings.	The authoress wanted to do some troublesome writings and so, she wanted quiet isolation.	The authoress wanted quiet isolation so that she could do some troublesome writings.

Rule 9: Participle phrase → and / who-which-that

- **Simple:** NP + V-ing + related word OR NP + verb + related word + V-ing + …
- **Compound:** NP + verb + related word + and + sub + verb + …
- **Complex:** NP + verb + related word + who/which/that + verb + …

Simple	Compound	Complex
The writer lived in a cabin belonging to the orphanage.	The writer lived in a cabin and it belonged to the orphanage.	The writer lived in a cabin that belonged to the orphanage.
I saw a bird flying in the sky.	I saw a bird and it was flying in the sky.	I saw a bird that was flying in the sky.

Rule 10: On V-ing → and at once / As soon as

- **Simple:** On + V-ing + related word, + sub + verb + related word (or: At the time of + possessive + V-ing)
- **Compound:** Sub + verb + related word + and, at once, + sub + verb + related word
- **Complex:** As soon as + sub + verb + related word, + sub + verb + related word

Simple	Compound	Complex
On returning home, Karim went to play in the field.	Karim returned home and, at once, he went to play in the field.	As soon as Karim returned home, he went to play in the field.
At the time of the teacher's entering into the classroom, the students stood up.	The teacher entered into the classroom and, at once, the students stood up.	As soon as the teacher entered into the classroom, the students stood up.
At the time of my reaching the school, the bell rang.	I reached the school, and at once the bell rang.	As soon as I reached the school, the bell rang.

Rule 11: At the time of → and at that time / When

- **Simple:** At the time of + possessive + V-ing + related word, + full sentence
- **Compound:** Sub + verb + related word + and, at that time, + full sentence
- **Complex:** When + sub + verb + related word, + principal clause

Simple	Compound	Complex
At the time of his coming here, it had been raining.	He came here and, at that time, it had been raining.	When he came here, it had been raining.
At the time of my reading, he came here.	I was reading and, at that time, he came here.	When I was reading, he came here.
At the time of their playing, it began to rain.	They were playing and, at that time, it began to rain.	When they were playing, it began to rain.
At the age of four, he left the village.	He was four, and at that time, he left the village.	When he was four, he left the village.

Rule 12: Object + present participle

- **Simple:** Sub + verb + pronoun object + present participle

- **Compound:** Sub + verb + object + and, at that time, + object (subject form) + be verb + participle
- **Complex:** Sub + verb + that + object (subject form) + be verb + participle

Simple	Compound	Complex
I saw him reading.	I saw him and, at that time, he was reading.	I saw that he was reading.

Rule 13: Adjective + noun → and / who-which

- **Simple:** Sub + verb + adjective + noun
- **Compound:** Sub + verb + noun + and + sub + be verb + adjective
- **Complex:** Sub + verb + noun + relative pronoun + be verb + adjective

Simple	Compound	Complex
I saw a lame man.	I saw a man and he was lame.	I saw a man who was lame.
Health is wealth.	It is health and it is also wealth.	It is health which is wealth.
He is a good boy.	He is a boy and he is good.	He is a boy who is good.

N.B. If the adjective modifies the subject, the complex form is: It + be verb + sub + relative pronoun + verb + adjective.

Not only ... but also → Besides V-ing

Compound with 'not only ... but also' becomes simple with 'Besides': put 'Besides' first, add -ing to the verb that came before 'but also', then the subject and the verb of the 'but also' part. If there is no verb in the first part, bring in the verb of the second part.

Compound	Simple
Our teacher not only teaches us but also guides us.	Besides teaching us, our teacher guides us.
We give him not only food but also shelter.	Besides giving food, we give him shelter.

Practice exercise

Transform as directed. Answers are in the answer key (next page).

1. Change into complex: Seeing the police, the thief ran away.
2. Change into compound: Seeing the police, the thief ran away.
3. Change into simple: When the thief saw the police, he ran away.
4. Change into complex: Because of my illness, I could not attend the school.
5. Change into compound: Because of my illness, I could not attend the school.
6. Change into simple: Since I was ill, I could not attend the school.
7. Change into complex: In spite of his trying heart and soul, he could not succeed.
8. Change into compound: In spite of his trying heart and soul, he could not succeed.
9. Change into simple: Although he tried heart and soul, he could not succeed.
10. Change into complex: He is too poor to buy a car.
11. Change into compound: He is too poor to buy a car.
12. Change into simple: He is so poor that he can't buy a car.
13. Change into complex: Without working hard, you will not prosper in life.
14. Change into compound: Without working hard, you will not prosper in life.
15. Change into simple: If you do not work hard, you will not prosper in life.
16. Change into complex: By eating balanced diet, you can keep a sound body.
17. Change into compound: By eating balanced diet, you can keep a sound body.
18. Change into simple: If you eat balanced diet, you can keep a sound body.
19. Change into complex: The sea water being very salty, they could not drink it.
20. Change into compound: The sea water being very salty, they could not drink it.
21. Change into simple: Since the sea water was very salty, they could not drink it.
22. Change into complex: I went there to see him.
23. Change into compound: I went there to see him.
24. Change into simple: I went there so that I might see him.
25. Change into complex: The writer lived in a cabin belonging to the orphanage.
26. Change into compound: The writer lived in a cabin belonging to the orphanage.
27. Change into simple: The writer lived in a cabin that belonged to the orphanage.
28. Change into complex: On returning home, Karim went to play in the field.
29. Change into compound: On returning home, Karim went to play in the field.
30. Change into simple: As soon as Karim returned home, he went to play in the field.
31. Change into complex: At the time of his coming here, it had been raining.
32. Change into compound: At the time of his coming here, it had been raining.
33. Change into simple: When he came here, it had been raining.
34. Change into complex: I saw him reading.
35. Change into compound: I saw him reading.

36. Change into simple: I saw that he was reading.

37. Change into complex: I saw a lame man.

38. Change into compound: I saw a lame man.

39. Change into simple: I saw a man who was lame.

Answer key

1. When the thief saw the police, he ran away.

2. The thief saw the police and he ran away.

3. Seeing the police, the thief ran away.

4. Since I was ill, I could not attend the school.

5. I was ill and so, I could not attend the school.

6. Because of my illness, I could not attend the school.

7. Although he tried heart and soul, he could not succeed.

8. He tried heart and soul but he could not succeed.

9. In spite of his trying heart and soul, he could not succeed.

10. He is so poor that he can't buy a car.

11. He is very poor and so, he can't buy a car.

12. He is too poor to buy a car.

13. If you do not work hard, you will not prosper in life.

14. Work hard or you will not prosper in life.

15. Without working hard, you will not prosper in life.

16. If you eat balanced diet, you can keep a sound body.

17. Eat balanced diet and you can keep a sound body.

18. By eating balanced diet, you can keep a sound body.

19. Since the sea water was very salty, they could not drink it.

20. The sea water was very salty and so, they could not drink it.

21. The sea water being very salty, they could not drink it.

22. I went there so that I might see him.

23. I wanted to see him and so, I went there.

24. I went there to see him.

25. The writer lived in a cabin that belonged to the orphanage.

26. The writer lived in a cabin and it belonged to the orphanage.

27. The writer lived in a cabin belonging to the orphanage.

28. As soon as Karim returned home, he went to play in the field.

29. Karim returned home and, at once, he went to play in the field.

30. On returning home, Karim went to play in the field.

31. When he came here, it had been raining.

32. He came here and, at that time, it had been raining.

33. At the time of his coming here, it had been raining.

34. I saw that he was reading.

35. I saw him and, at that time, he was reading.

36. I saw him reading.

37. I saw a man who was lame.

38. I saw a man and he was lame.

39. I saw a lame man.