

Simple, Compound Or Complex Sentence

A simple sentence has only one clause.

A complex sentence has one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

A compound sentence has two or more clauses of the equal rank.

State whether the following sentences are simple, complex or compound.

1. We met rather few people who spoke English.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

2. I have been on rather too many planes and trains recently.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

3. We drove right up to Helsinki in two days.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

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4. I don't care how expensive it is.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

5. Two minutes ago the child was fast asleep, but now he is wide awake.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

6. He is not tall enough to be a soldier.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

7. I guess she just doesn't respect you.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

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8. I have got four sisters and each of them is quite different from the others.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

9. You can either come with me now or walk home.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

10. He will never leave home because he hasn't got the courage to.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

11. When all else fails, read the user manual.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

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12. It was Sam who paid for the drinks.

Simple sentence

Complex sentence

Compound sentence

Answers

1. We met rather few people who spoke English. (Complex sentence)
2. I have been on rather too many planes and trains recently. (Simple sentence)
3. We drove right up to Helsinki in two days. (Simple sentence)
4. I don't care how expensive it is. (Complex sentence)
5. Two minutes ago the child was fast asleep, but now he is wide awake. (Compound sentence)
6. He is not tall enough to be a soldier. (Simple sentence)
7. I guess she just doesn't respect you. (Complex sentence)
8. I have got four sisters and each of them is quite different from the others. (Compound sentence)
9. You can either come with me now or walk home. (Compound sentence)
10. He will never leave home because he hasn't got the courage to. (Complex sentence)
11. When all else fails, read the user manual. (Complex sentence)
12. It was Sam who paid for the drinks. (Complex sentence)