



SYNTAX IN OLD ENGLISH. COMPOUND AND COMPLEX SENTENCES.

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ABSTRACT

In this article I tried to give some information about syntax in old English and its history, compound and complex sentences in old English and old English vocabulary. Old English was a highly synthetic language. It had a well-developed system of grammatical forms, which indicate the connection between words. It was originally a spoken language; therefore the written forms of the language resembled oral speech – unless the texts were literal translations from Latin. Consequently, the syntax of the sentence was relatively simple. Coordination of clauses prevailed over subordination and complicated syntactical structures were rare.

Introduction. The syntactic structure of OE was determined by two major conditions: the nature of OE morphology and the relations between the spoken and the written forms of the language. OE was largely a synthetic language; it possessed a system of grammatical forms which could indicate the connection between words. It was primarily a spoken language, consequently, the syntax of the sentence was relatively simple. The syntactic structure of a language can be described at the level of the phrase and at the level of the sentence. In OE texts we find a variety of word phrases. OE noun patterns, adjective and verb patterns had certain specific features which are important to note in view of their later changes.

Main part. A compound-complex sentence also has to have at least one dependent clause, like a complex sentence. Here is an example of a complex sentence:

Please feed the cat before you leave today.

The first clause, *please feed the cat*, is an independent clause. It can exist as a complete sentence. The second clause, *before you leave today*, doesn't make a full sentence without the first clause. This is a dependent clause.

A dependent clause can start with words like *before, that, since, if, when, where*, and *after*. In this context, these words are called subordinating conjunctions.

If we're going to be late anyway, we might as well stop for lunch.

The first clause in this example is the dependent clause: *if we're going to be late anyway*. The second is the independent clause: *we might as well stop for lunch*.

When a dependent clause comes before an independent clause in a complex sentence, it must end with a comma

A compound-complex sentence has to behave as both a compound sentence and a complex

sentence.

A compound-complex sentence must contain two or more independent clauses.

A compound-complex sentence must contain one or more dependent clauses.

Any sentence that meets these two criteria is a compound-complex sentence.

Function of a Compound-Complex Sentence

Sometimes a string of short, simple sentences can't effectively express a complicated thought.

It can make your writing seem stunted and awkward to a reader. Compound-complex sentences combine these simple sentences into longer strings of thought.

This is an example of several small sentences.

These ideas are not supported by science. You know that. You still insist on them. It's as if your life depends on it.

These four sentences get their message across, but they do it inefficiently. A compound-complex sentence could communicate this message more effectively.

You know that these ideas are not supported by science, but you still insist on them as if your life depends on it.

This example combines all the previous sentence's examples into a compound-complex sentence. This sentence flows better and gets its point across more effectively.

Compound-complex sentences aren't always the best option—sometimes simpler is better!—but in the right context, they create effective persuasion and elegant writing.

Types of Compound-Complex Sentences?

All sentences, including compound-complex sentences, are divided into four types based on their purpose of communication: declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, and imperative

Declarative Compound-Complex Sentence

The compound-complex sentences you've seen so far have been declarative. Declarative sentences declare that something is true or false.

A declarative compound-complex sentence makes a statement and ends with a period.

I can take you home after the game is over, but Patrick will be coming too.

In this example, the two independent clauses are *I can take you home* and *Patrick will be coming too*. The independent clauses are joined by the coordinating conjunction *but*. The dependent clause is *after the game is over*. The sentence makes a clear statement and ends with a period.

Interrogative Compound-Complex Sentence

Another purpose of communication is interrogation. The word may sound threatening, but it simply refers to asking questions.

An interrogative compound-complex sentence asks a question and ends with a question mark.

Are you working the closing shift after we finish school today, or are you free to go out with us?

In this example, the two independent clauses are *are you working the closing shift* and *are you free to go out with us*, joined by the coordinating conjunction *or*. The dependent clause is *after we finish school today*. The sentence asks a question and ends with a question mark.

Exclamatory Compound-Complex Sentence

An exclamatory sentence is a declarative sentence with intensity. An exclamatory compound-complex sentence makes an exclamation and ends with an exclamation point.

If you hadn't eaten the whole pie, I would have had some after work and Ellie would have taken some for lunch!

This example's two independent clauses are *I would have had some after work* and *Ellie would have taken some for lunch*, joined by the conjunction *and*. The dependent clause is *if you hadn't eaten the whole pie*. The sentence ends with an exclamation point, signaling an exclamatory compound-complex sentence.

Imperative Compound-Complex Sentence

An imperative sentence commands its subject to do something.

An imperative compound-complex sentence makes a command and ends with a period or an exclamation point.

Please go get the mail when you get home, and take your little sister with you.

The independent clauses are *please go get the mail* and *take your little sister with you*, joined by the conjunction *and*. The dependent clause is *when you get home*. The sentence makes a command and ends with a period. It might seem like an imperative sentence doesn't have a subject. Don't let this confuse you! Imperative sentences have an understood subject pronoun of *you*.

Complex Sentences

A complex sentence is composed of two simple sentences, each with a subject and verb, except one of the sentences has a subordinating conjunction or relative pronoun added, turning it into a dependent (or subordinate) clause. This structure allows the writer to show a sophisticated relationship between ideas, using the dependent clause to add information about the independent (or main) clause. The dependent clause can come before or after the independent clause.

Compound Sentences

A compound sentence is composed of two simple sentences joined by a semicolon or a comma with a coordinating conjunction, showing a clear connection between equal ideas.

Imagine the relationship between simple sentences within a compound sentence as items on either side of a balance scale. Each sentence retains its completeness, but by physically connecting them, the writer encourages the reader to recognize a relationship between the ideas each expresses.

Conclusion

The compound-complex sentence consists of two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses. This syntactic shape is essential in representing complex relationships and so is frequently put to use in various forms of analytical writing, especially in academic writing. It is also probably true that the ability to use compound-complex sentences elevates a writer's credibility: it demonstrates that he or she can bring together in a single sentence a range of different pieces of information and order them in relationship to each other. This is not to say that the compound-complex sentence invites confusion: on the contrary, when handled carefully, it has the opposite effect—it clarifies the complexity and enables readers to see it clearly.

I learned a lot from studying Old English Syntax: Compound and Complex Sentences. By studying them, I learned English, Old English syntax, and ways to use compound, complex sentences.

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