Shepard Academy

AP Language

Sentence Structure

Practice Test



**Classifying Independent and Subordinate Clauses**

Directions: Below each sentence classify the underlined clause as **subordinate (SUB)** or **independent (IND).**

1. Kenya, a country on the east coast of Africa, became independent in 1963.

**IND**

2. Vo, whose hair was still uncombed, went out to collect the newspaper from the lawn.

**SUB**

3. What I learned in school today will be of use when I go to take my driver’s license exam.

**SUB**

4. Sarah left for school after Molly came home from her morning run.

**IND**

5. A short, but fascinating story is how Franklin won the election.

**SUB**

**Identifying Sentences by Structure**

Directions: Below each sentence identify the structure – **simple (S), compound (CD), complex (CX)** or **compound-complex (CD-CX).**

Underline the words that make up the independent clause(s).Place in (parentheses) the words that make up the subordinate clause(s).

6. **(**While exiting a building during a fire drill**)**, do not talk with other students.

**CX**

7. The 1994 Winter Olympic Games were held in Lillehammer, Norway.

**S**

8. (Once they had their grandmother’s approval), Elayna stripped the old paint from the chair, and

Diane sanded the surface.

**CD-CX**

9. Does a kitten, (unless it is taught) know how to hunt?

**CX**

10. Some of the planets have moons, and one of the planets has rings.

**CD**

**Combining Sentences to Vary Structure**

Directions: Combine the simple sentences in each item to form the type of sentence indicated in parentheses.

Underline the words that make up the independent clause(s).Place in (parentheses) the words that make up the subordinate clause(s).

11. The caracal is also known as the Persian lynx. It is native to Africa and Asia. (complex)

The caracal,(*which is a native to Africa and Asia*,) is also known as the Persian lynx.

12. Caracals prey on rodents, birds, and small antelope. In India and Iran, they are sometimes trained to keep areas pest-free. (compound)

Caracals prey on rodents, birds, and small antelope, so in Indian and Iran, they are sometimes trained to keep areas pest-free.

13. Caracals have speed and agility. They are accomplished hunters. (simple)

Caracals have speed and agility and are accomplished hunters.

14. Caracals have been known to chase birds. The birds flocked together on the ground. They have

even been known to attack eagles. (compound-complex)

Caracals have been known to chase birds (which are flocked together on the ground), and they have even been known to attach eagles.

15. A caracal’s coat is reddish-brown with a white belly. There are tufts of black hair in the tips of its ears. (compound)

A caracal’s coat is reddish-brown with a white belly, and there are tuft of black hair in the tips of its ears.

**Revising a Paragraph to Include a Variety of Sentence Structures**

Directions: Revise the following paragraph, combining sentences as appropriate to create **3** new sentences. You may need to change or rearrange words and make other minor changes.

In parentheses, after each newly created sentence, identify the structure of the sentence.

A park ranger has many duties. He or she patrols the park. He or she maintains park grounds and enforces park rules. A park ranger often lives in the park. The park is the place the park ranger works. Rangers face some dangers. This is the reason some people don’t want the job. Rangers are often alone. They live in the wilderness. Sometimes they need supplies or help. They use the radio to call for supplies or help.

* He or she patrols the park, maintains park grounds, and enforces park rules. **Simple**
* A park ranger often lives in the park where he works. **Complex**
* Because rangers face some dangers, some people don’t want the job. **Complex**
* Rangers, who live in the wilderness, are often alone. **Complex**
* When they need supplies or help, they use the radio to call. **Complex**