

# Complex sentences



To understand properly how to use **commas**, it is important to understand how **complex sentences** are formed. **Complex sentences** are used to **link ideas** together. Rather than having two separate sentences you join them together to make one **complex sentence**.

**For example**, here are two separate sentences:

The car stopped suddenly. The car hit a lamppost.

These two sentences can be joined together by using a connecting word like 'when'.

The car stopped suddenly **when** it hit a lamppost.

You don't always need a comma when you join sentences together like this. Sometimes the connecting word is all that is needed.



1. Rewrite each pair of sentences as a complex sentence. Use the connecting word shown at the end of the line.

a) Carrie paused for a moment. Then she entered the room.

(before)

b) The box was heavy. The box was only small.

(although)

c) Henry VIII was King of England from 1509. He died in 1547.

(until)

d) It is important to eat lots of fruit and vegetables. They contain vitamins.

(because)

e) Marcia watched the world become smaller. Marcia zoomed into the sky.

(as)

Did you know...

A complex sentence has two parts or clauses – these are called the main clause and the subordinate clause. The subordinate clause is the part that is added – it is the part that begins with the connecting word.

**For example:**

The car stopped suddenly

when it hit the lamppost.

This is the main clause.

This is the subordinate clause.