

# Complex Sentences

## Connect Four Game

The	○	boy	○	ate	○	some	○	sweets
-----	---	-----	---	-----	---	------	---	--------

curly haired

who lives next door

The	○	teacher	○	taught	○	the	○	children
-----	---	---------	---	--------	---	-----	---	----------

tall

well behaved

This activity is designed to improve students' writing skills and encourage the development of complex sentences as well as the identification of various grammatical features.

Suitable for students aged 9+

Learning Outcome: Pupils will be able to identify grammatical features and increase the complexity of their writing.

Copyright © 2012 All rights reserved

Only those schools and learning institutions who have subscribed (as defined by records and certificate) are allowed to print out this content.

Please visit [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com) or email [collaborate@mantralingua.com](mailto:collaborate@mantralingua.com) to subscribe.

# Complex Sentences

## Connect Four Game

Devised by Liz Taylor (Advisory Teacher, Suffolk)  
& Stuart Scott

**Theme: Sentences**

**Age range: 9+**

### Context:

We are always looking for ways to improve pupils' writing skills and this activity not only encourages the development of complex sentences but also involves the identification of grammatical features.

### Preparation:

Print out the A4 sheets.

If possible, laminate the "baseboards" and cover the pages of the cards with 'clear pvc self adhesive film'. Then cut out the squares to make the cards.

### HOW TO PLAY:

You need four people, one baseboard, two "simple sentences" sheets and two sets of cards (different colour borders). Work with a partner to make a team of two. Shuffle your team cards and place them in a pile face down. Players take turns to pick a card. They have to identify the grammatical item/part of speech they have chosen and place the card on the game board. They should then try to incorporate the word, phrase or clause into any one of their simple sentences, so that it makes grammatical and contextual sense. Players have to agree with each other how nonsensical they allow the sentences to be. The winner is the first player to get four cards in a row. The second winner is the player with the most complex sentence.

### Learning Outcomes:

Pupils will be able to identify grammatical features and increase the complexity of their writing.

If you have found further learning outcomes please share them by emailing [collaborate@mantralingua.com](mailto:collaborate@mantralingua.com)

Mantra Lingua Ltd, Global House, 303 Ballards Lane, London N12 8NP 0044 (0) 208 445 5123

*(You can purchase a professionally printed, sound-enabled version of this activity with pre-cut cards from [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com). Students can use PENpal to record and re-record aurally onto the pages and cards. Recordings can be saved and used for assessment, or shared with other classes and schools via "ShareLINK".)*

energetically

carefully

sports

tall

double glazed

where I go  
every day

who lives  
next door

where my  
friend works

very quickly

as often  
as we wished

last night

under the table

quickly

noisily

curly-haired

against

despite  
being eaten  
by a monster

who suddenly  
felt hungry

as often  
as we wished

polite

This card  
can be placed  
anywhere, but  
you must  
change a noun

This card  
can be placed  
anywhere, but  
you must  
change a noun

we met  
in the park

guzzled

three

with one leg

well-behaved

who  
wants to be  
a footballer

ginger

with green  
hair

who came  
yesterday

with the bright  
red car

who lives  
on Mars

with purple  
socks

who left  
school early

unfortunately

enormous

who liked  
to be popular  
in class

who spent  
all night  
marking books

although it  
was high up

politely

in the park

without  
any friends

exotic

entertained

punished

appears

tickled

# Complex Sentences - Cards

energetically

carefully

sports

tall

double glazed

where I go  
every day

who lives  
next door

where my  
friend works

very quickly

as often  
as we wished

last night

under the table

quickly

noisily

curly haired

against

despite  
being eaten  
by a monster

who suddenly  
felt hungry

as often  
as we wished

polite

This card  
can be placed  
anywhere, but  
you must  
change a noun

This card  
can be placed  
anywhere, but  
you must  
change a noun

we met  
in the park

guzzled

# Complex Sentences- Cards

three

with one leg

well behaved

who  
wants to be  
a footballer

ginger

with green  
hair

who came  
yesterday

with the bright  
red car

who lives  
on Mars

with purple  
socks

who left  
school early

unfortunately

enormous

who liked  
to be popular  
in class

who spent  
all night  
marking books

although it  
was high up

politely

in the park

without  
any friends

exotic

entertained

punished

appears

tickled



1.

The		boy		ate		some		sweets
-----	--	-----	--	-----	--	------	--	--------

2.

The		teacher		taught		the		children
-----	--	---------	--	--------	--	-----	--	----------

3.

The		window		was		broken		
-----	--	--------	--	-----	--	--------	--	--

4.

The		boys		were		brothers		
-----	--	------	--	------	--	----------	--	--

5.

The		banana		is		a		fruit
-----	--	--------	--	----	--	---	--	-------

6.

The		man		opened		the		door
-----	--	-----	--	--------	--	-----	--	------



1.

The		boy		ate		some		sweets
-----	--	-----	--	-----	--	------	--	--------

2.

The		teacher		taught		the		children
-----	--	---------	--	--------	--	-----	--	----------

3.

The		window		was		broken		
-----	--	--------	--	-----	--	--------	--	--

4.

The		boys		were		brothers		
-----	--	------	--	------	--	----------	--	--

5.

The		banana		is		a		fruit
-----	--	--------	--	----	--	---	--	-------

6.

The		man		opened		the		door
-----	--	-----	--	--------	--	-----	--	------

# Complex Sentences - Game Board

© 2012 Mantra Lingua: all rights reserved. No copying without permission [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com)  
(This is the left half of the game board. Cut along the dotted line and glue to the right one, mount or laminate.)

subordinate clause	adjective	adverb	any phrase	a
adjective	prepositional phrase	subordinate clause	any clause	c
adverb	any phrase	adjective	adverb	a
adjective	alternative verb	adjectival phrase	subordinate clause	a
adjectival phrase	subordinate clause	adverbial phrase	adverb	a
adjective	prepositional phrase	alternative verb	adverbial phrase	c

e	alternative verb	adjectival phrase	prepositional phrase	subordinate clause
e	adverbial phrase	any clause	adjectival phrase	adjective
	alternative verb	any phrase	subordinate clause	adverb
e	any clause	alternative verb	any phrase	adverbial phrase
	adjective	subordinate clause	adjectival phrase	adverb
	adjective	adjective	prepositional phrase	any phrase