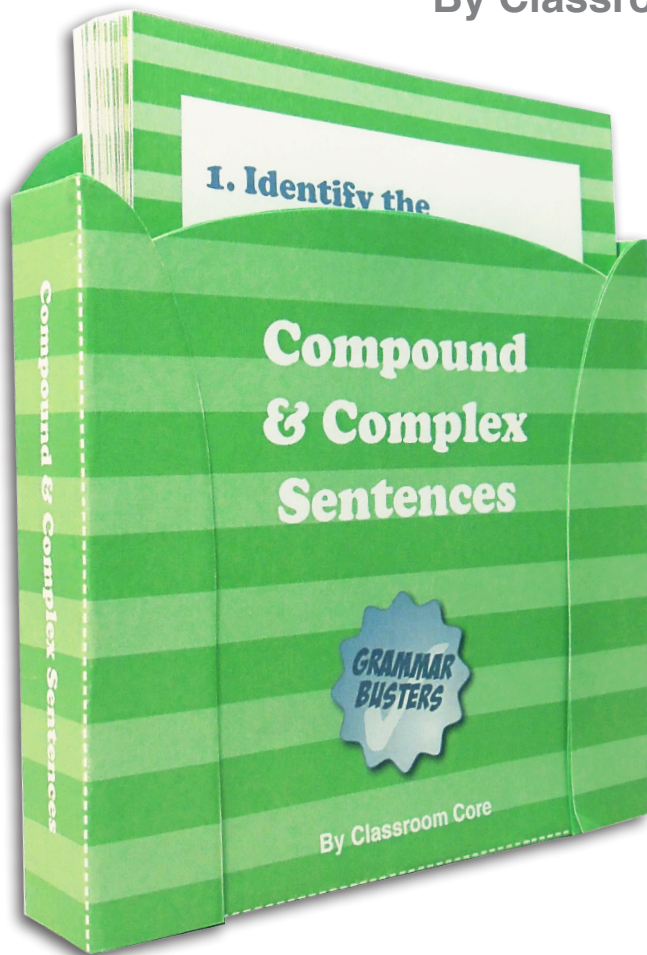


Compound & Complex Sentences

40 Task Cards Plus Grammar Posters

By Classroom Core



- Grades 6–8
- Aligned to CCSS
- 40 Task Cards
- Storage Case Template
- 4 Grammar Posters
- Student Recording Sheet
- Instructions & Answer Key

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**GRAMMAR
BUSTERS**



Compound & Complex Sentences: 40 Task Cards Plus Grammar Posters

Introduction

Grammar Busters activities enable students to tackle difficult elements of grammar through hands-on practice. In this set, students identify compound and complex sentences. They also practice finding subordinate conjunctions and relative pronouns, as well as dependent and independent clauses.

What's Included?

- **40 task cards** (*See page 9*)

Print out the task cards and posters. You may want to use cardstock or laminate the cards for extended durability. Students use the task cards for identifying compound and complex sentences plus their clauses and “joiners.” Students enjoy using the task cards with a partner or alone for instruction, class competitions, or review.

If desired, copy the recording sheets (*page 19*) for students to use.



Store your set of task cards with the build-your-own storage case template provided (*page 8*). This is an organizational tool that you and your students will love!



You can project the PDF version of the task cards with a projector onto a white board while you use the task cards during whole class instruction.

- **Posters** (*See page 4*)

Print the four posters (Compound Sentences (*also included in previous set*), Complex Sentences, Subordinating Conjunctions, and Compound vs. Complex) for your students, or post them on a wall or bulletin board for display.

- **Answer Key for Task Cards** (*See page 21*)

All answers are included. You can guide students as they participate, or they can brush up on their skills by checking their own work independently.





Common Core State Standards

Activities in Compound & Complex Sentences: 40 Task Cards Plus Grammar Posters address the following Common Core Standards:



- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.3a:** Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/ listener interest, and style.



- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1a:** Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1b:** Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.



- **Note:** According to CCSS guidelines, compound and complex sentences will likely need revisiting in grades 8 and beyond.

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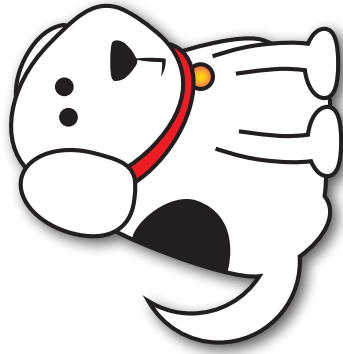
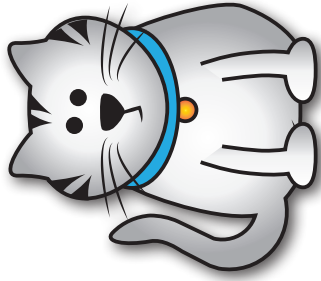
Teacher Notes on this Activity: _____



Compound Sentences

A **compound sentence** contains two independent clauses usually joined by a comma and a conjunction.

Compound sentences have no dependent (subordinate) clauses.



Alana **has** an aggressive dog, and *Dion* **owns** a quiet cat.

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
SUBJECT VERB 1 SUBJECT VERB

I **love** dogs, but my *family* **has adopted** two cats.

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
SUBJECT VERB SUBJECT VERB VERB

TIP: Use a semi-colon or a comma with a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS) to join two simple independent clauses.

Complex Sentences

A **complex sentence** has one independent clause plus one or more subordinate (dependent) clauses joined by a subordinate conjunction or a relative pronoun.

A **subordinate clause** (dependent clause) begins with a subordinate conjunction or a relative pronoun and contains both subject and verb.

I sometimes read at school because it is quiet.

↑
INDEPENDENT
CLAUSE

↑
SUBORDINATE
CONJUNCTION

↑
SUBORDINATE
CLAUSE

I sometimes read books that are biographical.

↑
INDEPENDENT
CLAUSE

↑
RELATIVE
PRONOUN

↑
SUBORDINATE
CLAUSE

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

that

which

whichever

who

whoever

whom

whomever

whose



Subordinating Conjunctions...

join a subordinate clause
to a main clause

some common ones

after

although

as

as if

as long as

as much as

as soon as

as though

because

before

even if

even though

how

if

if only

inasmuch

in order that

lest

now that

once

provided (that)

rather than

since

so that

than

that

till

though

unless

until

when

whenever

where

whereas

wherever

while

Compound or Complex?

Compound Sentences

Independent clause

+

Coordinating conjunction
(FANBOYS)

+

Independent clause

=

Compound sentence

Compound Sentences

I like to eat chocolate ice cream,
and I love to eat vanilla cake.

I exercise often, **so** I can eat more
calories.

Complex Sentences

Independent clause

+

Subordinate conjunction
or relative pronoun

+

Dependent clause

=

Complex sentence

Complex Sentences

My friend is upset **because**
there are so many calories.

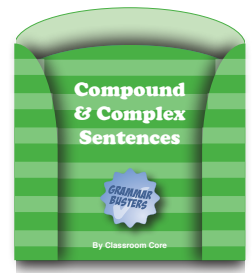
My friend, **who works in a gym**,
watches his calorie intake.

Both have an
independent
clause plus one
other clause

Both have subjects
and verbs in
each clause

Both have "joiners"
to connect the
clauses

STORAGE CASE



1. Print this page on heavy paper or cardstock. (You could also make the structure sturdy by printing it on regular paper and gluing the page to a file folder for reinforcement.)

2. Cut along outline, and then score or fold along dotted lines.

3. Fold flaps in and glue or tape in place.

The case is large enough to store the 40 cards in this set when printed on cardstock or on standard paper and laminated.

Compound & Complex Sentences



By Classroom Core

GLUE

GLUE

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Compound & Complex Sentences

Compound & Complex Sentences

GLUE

GLUE



1. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Although we have a new school, our classrooms are already crowded.



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2. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

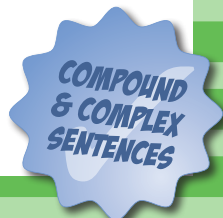
Nikki won the game because she practiced hard to learn the strategies.



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3. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Since I was old enough to read, I have read books at night before bed.



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4. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

As he walked to the door, he felt the rain on his face.



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5. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Shawn, who is the best baseball pitcher, is unable to play in the game today.



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6. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Before I finish my homework, I will watch my favorite TV show.



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7. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

Because I am already hungry, I will eat dinner early.



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8. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

When they see the results of the election, the students will be excited.



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9. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

My favorite aunt, who lives in Arizona, is a published author of a best-selling book.

COMPOUND & COMPLEX SENTENCES

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10. Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence:

This activity is too difficult for me because I am not very tall.

COMPOUND & COMPLEX SENTENCES

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11. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

After my parents came home, they saw the toys in the driveway.

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12. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

If I study my Latin, I will understand Latin roots and prefixes.

COMPOUND & COMPLEX SENTENCES

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13. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

For the rest of the day, we played in the playground, which is north of our school.

COMPOUND
& COMPLEX
SENTENCES

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14. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

Although she was weary from running so long, the determined young girl crossed the finish line.

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& COMPLEX
SENTENCES

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15. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

When he started using the study guide on a regular basis, he finally understood the material.

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& COMPLEX
SENTENCES

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16. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

Since there are so many different answers, it is sometimes difficult to find the correct solution.

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& COMPLEX
SENTENCES

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17. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

Pets will not always be happy if you do not feed them on time.

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& COMPLEX
SENTENCES

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18. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

When they found out the price of the dresses, the girls decided not to buy them.

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& COMPLEX
SENTENCES

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19. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

Cats, who have excellent night vision, can hunt their prey in the dark.

COMPOUND
& COMPLEX
SENTENCES

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20. Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence:

Jen and her friend who ate the chocolate cake developed painful upset stomachs.

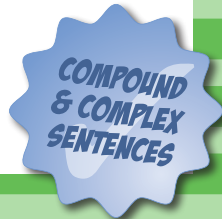
COMPOUND
& COMPLEX
SENTENCES

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21. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Kids often teased Sally when she told her stories.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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22. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Before finding the lost coins, the children looked everywhere in the backyard.

- a. compound
- b. complex

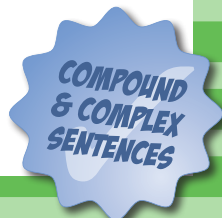


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23. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Several parents were upset because the school day was shortened.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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24. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Although they shared a common language, they had difficulty understanding each other.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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25. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Lou and Zoe always stayed up late at night, yet they were awake early in the morning.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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26. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Cats and dogs can actually be good friends, yet they are often considered enemies.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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27. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Pop music can cheer up certain people, but my friend does not like it.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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28. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Although the sky darkened, there was no rain.

- a. compound
- b. complex

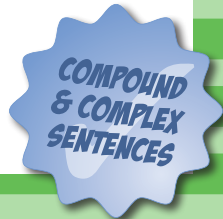


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29. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Because the dog barked all night, the neighbors didn't get any sleep.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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30. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

The school closed for the summer, but we attended summer school.

- a. compound
- b. complex

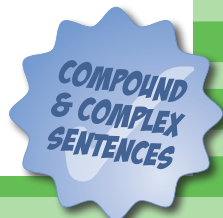


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31. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Unless Shannon finds the right music, she will be unable to play in the concert.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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32. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

If you wash the dishes tonight, I will clean the kitchen tomorrow.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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33. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Tyler is interested in becoming an engineer, so he will take high-level science classes.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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34. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Jenny carefully filled the baskets with treats for the children, but she had trouble finding the right snacks.

- a. compound
- b. complex

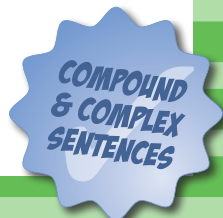


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35. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

The mascot, who represents our school basketball team, is extremely popular with the students.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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36. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

The cheerleaders surrounded the team when they finished the cheer.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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37. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

I love planting flowers in spring, and my friend enjoys harvesting her garden produce in fall.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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38. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Upon the arrival of the guests, a singer, whose name was Miranda, made her way to the front of the group.

- a. compound
- b. complex

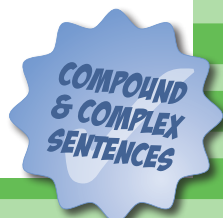


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39. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

The concert was poorly attended since students were not allowed to go after midnight.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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40. Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence:

Even though the dessert was served with ice cream, the boys did not like it.

- a. compound
- b. complex



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Compound & Complex Sentences

**STUDENT
ANSWERS**

Name: _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____



**STUDENT
ANSWERS**

- 21. _____
- 22. _____
- 23. _____
- 24. _____
- 25. _____
- 26. _____
- 27. _____
- 28. _____
- 29. _____
- 30. _____
- 31. _____
- 32. _____
- 33. _____
- 34. _____
- 35. _____
- 36. _____
- 37. _____
- 38. _____
- 39. _____
- 40. _____





Answer Key

Answers for task cards 1–10

(Identify the independent clause and the dependent clause in the complex sentence.)

Independent clause: regular text

Dependent clause: *italicized*

1. *Although we have a new school*, our classrooms are already crowded.
2. Nikki won the game *because she practiced hard to learn the strategies*.
3. *Since I was old enough to read*, I have read books at night before bed.
4. *As he walked to the door*, he felt the rain on his face.
5. Shawn, *who is the best baseball pitcher*, is unable to play in the game today.
6. *Before I finish my homework*, I will watch my favorite TV show.
7. *Because I am already hungry*, I will eat dinner early.
8. *When they see the results of the election*, the students will be excited.
9. My favorite aunt, *who lives in Arizona*, is a published author of a best-selling book.
10. This activity is too difficult for me *because I am not very tall*.

Answers for task cards 11–20

(Identify the dependent clause as well as the subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun in each complex sentence.)

Dependent clause: *italicized*

Subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun: underlined

11. *After my parents came home*, they saw the toys in the driveway.
Subordinate conjunction: after
12. *If I study my Latin*, I will understand Latin roots and prefixes
Subordinate conjunction: if
13. For the rest of the day, we played in the playground, *which is north of our school*.
Relative pronoun: which
14. *Although she was weary from running so long*, the determined young girl crossed the finish line.
Subordinate conjunction: although





Compound & Complex Sentences: 40 Task Cards + Grammar Posters

By Classroom Core

15. *When he started using the study guide on a regular basis*, he finally understood the material.
Subordinate conjunction: when
16. *Since there are so many different answers*, it is sometimes difficult to find the correct solution.
Subordinate conjunction: since
17. Pets will not always be happy *if you do not feed them on time*.
Subordinate conjunction: if
18. *When they found out the price of the dresses*, the girls decided not to buy them.
Subordinate conjunction: when
19. Cats, *who have excellent night vision*, can hunt their prey in the dark.
Relative pronoun: who
20. Jen and her friend *who ate the chocolate cake* developed painful upset stomachs.
Relative pronoun: who

Answers for task cards 21–40

(Determine if this sentence is a compound sentence or a complex sentence.)

Dependent clause for complex sentences: *italicized*

Correct multiple choice answer: underlined

21. Kids often teased Sally *when she told her stories*.
a. compound b. complex
22. *Before finding the lost coins*, the children looked everywhere in the backyard.
a. compound b. complex
23. Several parents were upset *because the school day was shortened*.
a. compound b. complex
24. *Although they shared a common language*, they had difficulty understanding each other.
a. compound b. complex
25. Lou and Zoe always stayed up late at night, yet they were awake early in the morning.
a. compound b. complex
26. Cats and dogs can actually be good friends, yet they are often considered enemies.
a. compound b. complex





Compound & Complex Sentences: 40 Task Cards + Grammar Posters

By Classroom Core

27. Pop music can cheer up certain people, but my friend does not like it.
a. compound b. complex
28. *Although the sky darkened*, there was no rain.
a. compound b. complex
29. *Because the dog barked all night*, the neighbors didn't get any sleep.
a. compound b. complex
30. The school closed for the summer, but we attended summer school.
a. compound b. complex
31. *Unless Shannon finds the right music*, she will be unable to play in the concert.
a. compound b. complex
32. *If you wash the dishes tonight*, I will clean the kitchen tomorrow.
a. compound b. complex
33. Tyler is interested in becoming an engineer, so he will take high-level science classes.
a. compound b. complex
34. Jenny carefully filled the baskets with treats for the children, but she had trouble finding the right snacks.
a. compound b. complex
35. The mascot, *who represents our school basketball team*, is extremely popular with the students.
a. compound b. complex
36. The cheerleaders surrounded the team *when they finished the cheer*.
a. compound b. complex
37. I love planting flowers in spring, and my sister enjoys harvesting her garden produce in fall.
a. compound b. complex
38. Upon the arrival of the guests, a singer, *whose name was Miranda*, made her way to the front of the group.
a. compound b. complex
39. The concert was poorly attended *since students were not allowed to go after midnight*.
a. compound b. complex
40. *Even though the dessert was served with ice cream*, the boys did not like it.
a. compound b. complex

