

Lesson 25**Complex and Compound-Complex Sentences**

A **complex sentence** contains a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

MAIN CLAUSE

We ate popcorn

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

while we watched the movie.

Do not be confused by the phrase *we watched the movie*, which is a complete sentence. The complete subordinate clause is *while we watched the movie*, which cannot stand alone as a sentence.

A **compound-complex sentence** has more than one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

MAIN CLAUSE

I was in the back yard

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

when Tony called,

MAIN CLAUSE

and I didn't hear the phone ring.

► **Exercise 1** Draw one line under the main clause and two lines under the subordinate clause. Write *C* in the blank if the sentence is complex and *CC* if it is compound-complex.

 C Whenever I work at this computer, I get a stiff neck.

- _____ 1. After I had searched everywhere, I found my ring, and I put it in my jewelry box.
- _____ 2. Julia cooked the lasagna yesterday, because she wouldn't have time today.
- _____ 3. As long as you're driving that way, could you stop at the post office for me?
- _____ 4. While thinking of an answer, Jason stared at his feet.
- _____ 5. Tillie paused for a moment when she reached the landing, and then she continued up the stairs.
- _____ 6. Terese apologized because she had lost her temper.
- _____ 7. I gave him a pen so that he could write down the phone number.
- _____ 8. I wrote a letter to the owner because the restaurant was filthy, and I'm waiting for a reply.
- _____ 9. She did not have the shoes that I wanted to buy; however, she is ordering them for me.
- _____ 10. The kite didn't fly because there wasn't enough wind.
- _____ 11. I met Dr. Wolfe while I was attending college, and now I work in her office.
- _____ 12. Mary never called because she got home too late.
- _____ 13. When the weather is hot, gardening can be drudgery.
- _____ 14. He didn't raise his voice, but we knew that he meant business, and we got back to work.
- _____ 15. As long as you're calling, ask her for the salsa recipe.

- _____ 16. Lee is worried, and I agree that we should take the cat to the vet.
- _____ 17. Because it was directed at toddlers, the program had to be brief.
- _____ 18. As he described his trip to sunny Puerto Rico, the rain continued to fall.
- _____ 19. Even though I was scheduled to leave early, I'll stay until closing, and then I'll make the bank deposit.
- _____ 20. When small children need sleep, they become short-tempered.
- _____ 21. My sister is moving because she got a new job.
- _____ 22. Although I promised I'd be there, I couldn't make it because my car wouldn't start.
- _____ 23. Even if you mail the card today, it won't arrive until after her birthday, and you will have to call anyway.
- _____ 24. If this snow continues, school will be canceled, and we'll have to stay home.
- _____ 25. The snack bar, which is open all year, is behind the boathouse.
- _____ 26. Angela called while you were out, but she didn't leave a message.
- _____ 27. Even though Carey is gone for the weekend, the cat sleeps on her bed, and the dog sleeps in her doorway.
- _____ 28. Unless it rains, she will take her binoculars and go birdwatching.
- _____ 29. Will the person who lost a pearl necklace please come to the front desk?
- _____ 30. If you simply paint over them, the cracks will return, and you'll have to paint again.

► **Writing Link** Write a brief paragraph about a book you have read. Use at least two complex sentences and one compound-complex sentence.
