



So *that's* what led to this leash around my neck.

Complex Sentences vs. Compound Sentences

Complex Sentences are sentences that include an independent clause that is combined with a dependent clause by a subordinating conjunction.

Example:

Since the first wolf joined the caveman at his fire, dogs have had a relationship with man.

Compound Sentences are sentences that contain at least two independent clauses that are joined by a coordinating conjunction.

Example:

Buck dreams about the caveman, but his dream is only a memory of an ancient ancestor.



Read each of Jack London's sentences below. Indicate on the left whether the sentence is a "complex" sentence or a "compound" sentence. Underline independent clauses once and dependent clauses twice. If the sentence is neither, write "simple." Also, keep your eyes out for "compound/complex" sentences.

- _____ 1. Sometimes Buck thought of Judge Miller's house and the sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley, but more often he thought of the man in the red sweater, the death of Curly, and the great fight with Spitz.
- _____ 2. The hair of this man was long and matted, and his head slanted back under it from the eyes.
- _____ 3. I wouldn't tote that tent along if I were you.
- _____ 4. They threw themselves against the breastbands, dug their feet into the packed snow, got down low to it, and put forth all their strength.
- _____ 5. The two mongrels were without spirit at all; bones were the only things breakable about them.
- _____ 6. It is a saying of the country that an Outside dog starves to death on the ration of the husky, so the six Outside dogs under Buck could do no less than die on half the ration of the husky.
- _____ 7. She rode for days, till they fell in the traces and the sled stood still.
- _____ 8. He pulled when he could; when he could no longer pull, he fell down and remained down till blows from whip or club drove him to his feet again.
- _____ 9. When a halt was made, they dropped down in the traces like dead dogs, and the spark dimmed and paled and seemed to go out.
- _____ 10. Mercedes screamed, cried, laughed, and manifested the chaotic abandonment of hysteria.



Wow! I think I'm feeling "The Call" myself.

Writing Like London

Directions: If you haven't already noticed, Jack London frequently uses very complex sentence structures. These structures are within your grasp if you follow his lead. Use the sentences below from Jack London's The Call of the Wild as a guide for expressing your own thoughts.

Example :

Jack London: "Sometimes Buck thought of Judge Miller's house and the sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley, but more often he thought of the man in the red sweater, the death of Curly, and the great fight with Spitz."

Student: Sometimes Jerry dreamed about a career in the NFL and a house on the beach, but more often he saw himself driving a fire truck, rescuing a child from a burning building, and serving the community.

Now try it yourself.

1. **London:** They threw themselves against the breastbands, dug their feet into the packed snow, got down low to it, and put forth all their strength.

2. **London:** The two mongrels were without spirit at all; bones were the only things breakable about them.

3. **London:** When a halt was made, they dropped down in the traces like dead dogs, and the spark dimmed and paled and seemed to go out.

