

# Unit - 7

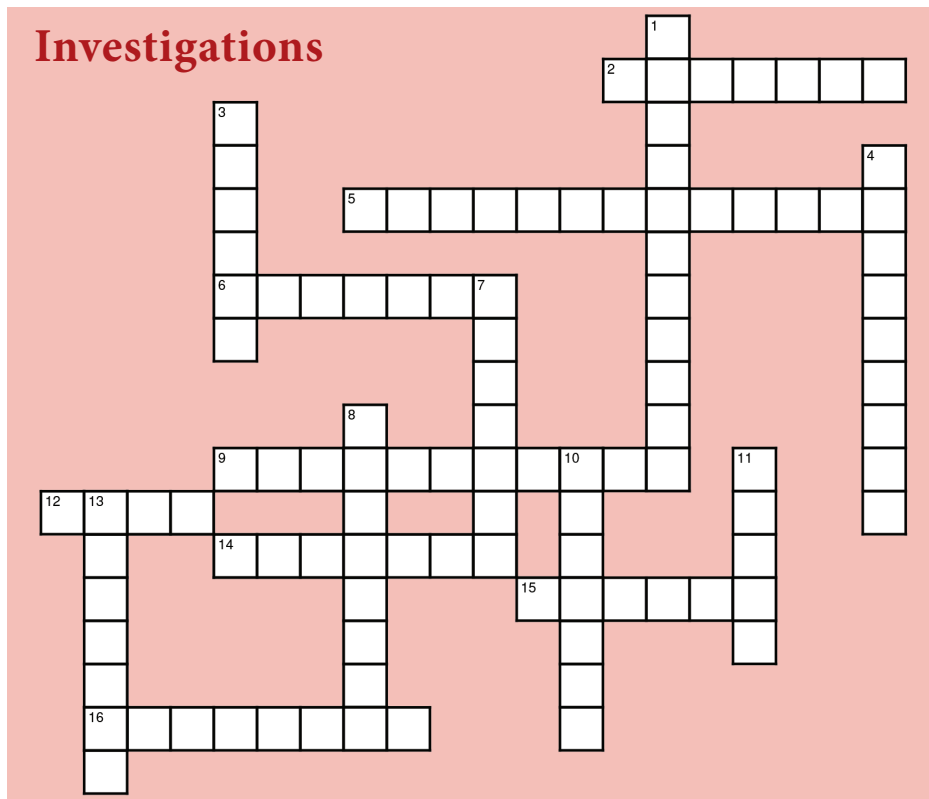


## Warm Up



Solve the crossword using the list of words and the clues.

### Investigations



infer  
observe  
examine  
revealed  
inconceivable  
aspects  
link  
detective  
inquisitive  
inspect  
conclude  
inquiry  
analyze  
mental  
deduce  
investigate

#### Across

2. a question
5. unimaginable
6. to examine all the parts of something in order to understand it
9. to look into a situation (often a crime, but it can also be a mystery)
12. a connection; one part of a chain
14. to notice or watch
15. to figure out something unknown by considering all its known aspects and reasoning it through
16. to consider the evidence and then decide what is true or correct (OR to end something)

#### Down

1. curious; wants to understand things
3. related to the mind
4. a person whose job is to find or recognize the hidden information needed to solve a crime
7. to look closely at something
8. shown or made known
10. different sides or ways of looking at something
11. to make a logical guess that something is true based on the evidence, although the evidence is not clear enough to be absolutely certain
13. to look at something carefully to find problems or specific information



## The Dying Detective

Arthur Conan Doyle

Prose

The detective Sherlock Holmes was seriously ill. He wanted to meet his assistant Watson. He asked his landlady to get him. Watson was surprised to see the condition of his master. Was Watson able to save his master? Read on to know more about the underlying story behind Holmes' sickness.

Mrs. Hudson, the landlady of Sherlock Holmes, came to me and said, "Mr. Holmes is dying, Mr. Watson. For three days he has been sinking, and I doubt if he will last another day. He would not let me get a doctor. I told him I could not stand it anymore and would get a doctor." He replied, "Let it be Watson then."

I was horrified for I had not heard about his illness before. I rushed for my hat and coat. As we drove back, I asked her about the details.

"There is little I can tell you, sir. He has been working on a case down at Rotherhithe, near the river, and has brought this illness back with him. He took to bed on Wednesday afternoon and has never moved since. For three days neither food nor drink has passed his lips." "Why did you not call a doctor?" I asked.

"He wouldn't have it, sir. I didn't dare to disobey him."

- How did Watson feel when he heard of Holme's illness?
- Why didn't the landlady call the doctor?

He was indeed a sad sight. In the dim light of a foggy November day, the sick-room was a gloomy spot, but it was

the **gaunt** face staring from the bed that brought chill to my heart. His eyes had the brightness of fever, his cheeks were flushed, and his hand **twitched** all the time. He lay listless.

"My dear fellow!" I cried approaching him.

"Stand back! Stand right back!" he cried.

"But why? I want to help you," I said.

"Certainly, Watson, but it is for your own sake."

"For my sake?" I was surprised.

"I know what is the matter with me. It is the disease from Sumatra. It is deadly and **contagious**, Watson – that's it, by touch."

"Good heavens, Holmes! Do you think this can stop me?" I said advancing towards him.

"If you will stand there, I will talk. If you don't you must leave the room," said my master.

I have always given in to Holmes' wishes. But now my feelings as a doctor were aroused. I was at least his master in the sick-room.

"Holmes," I said, "you are not yourself whether you like it or not. I will examine your symptoms and treat you."

“If I am to have a doctor,” said he, “let me at least have someone in whom I have confidence.”

“Then you have none in me?”

“In your friendship, certainly. But facts are facts, Watson. You are a general practitioner, not a specialist of this disease.”

“If so, let me bring Sir Japer Meek or Penrose Fisher, or any other best man in London.”

“How ignorant you are! Watson!” he said with a **groan**.

“What do you know about Tarpaunli fever or the black Formosa **plague**?”

“I have never heard of them,” I admitted.

c. What was the condition of Holmes when Watson saw him?

d. What according to Holmes was the disease he was suffering from?

“There are many problems of the disease in the East. I have learnt that much during my recent researches. And during this course I caught this illness,” he said.

“I will bring Dr. Ainstree then,” I said going towards the door. Never have I had such a shock when the dying man **bolted** the door and locked it, shouted in an uncontrolled way and in a moment he was back in his bed.

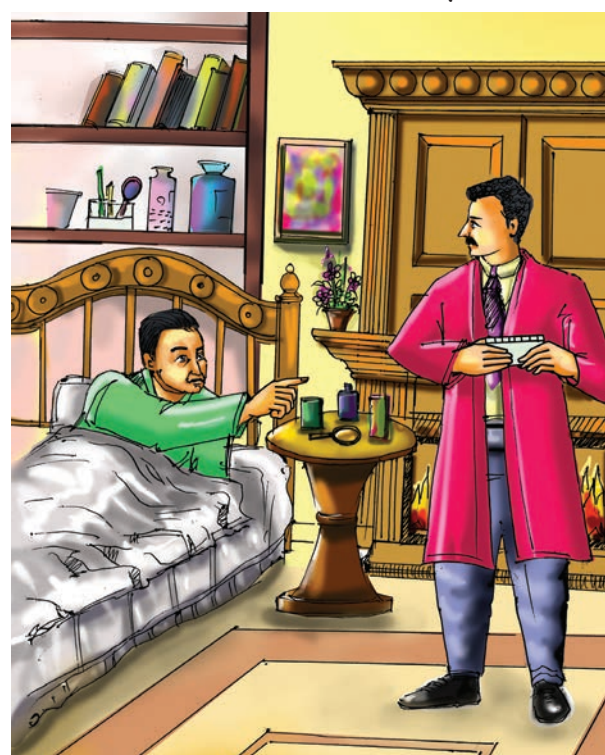
“You won’t have the key by force from me Watson. Be here till 6 o’clock. It is four now”.

“This is madness, Holmes,” I said.

“Only two hours, Watson. Then you can get a doctor of my choice. You can

read some books, over there. At six we will talk again.”

Unable to settle down to reading, I walked slowly round and round, looking at the pictures. Finally I came to the **mantle piece**, where among other things I saw a small black and white ivory box with sliding lid. As I held it in my hand to examine it, I heard a dreadful cry. “Put it down! Down at once, Watson,” he said, “I hate to have my things touched. Sit down man, and let me have my rest!”



Then I sat in silent dejection until the stipulated time had passed.

“Now Watson,” he said, “Have you any change?”

“Yes,” I replied.

“How many **half- crowns**? Put them in your watch – pocket. And all the rest in your trouser pocket. You will light the gas lamp, but it must be half on. You will have the kindness to place some letters and

paper on the table within my reach. Now place the ivory box on the table within my reach. Slide the lid a bit with **tongs**. Put the tongs on the table. Good! Now you can go and fetch Mr. Culverton Smith, of 13 Lower Burke Street”.

I was hesitant to leave him now. He was **delirious**.

“I have never heard of the name,” I said.

“Well, he is the man who has the knowledge of this disease but he is not a medical man. He is a planter. He lives in Sumatra, now visiting London. I didn’t want you to go before six, because you wouldn’t have found him in his study. I hope you will be able to persuade him to come. You will tell him exactly how you have left me.” He said, “You must tell him that I’m dying – plead with him, Watson.”

“I’ll bring him in a cab,” I said.

“No. You will persuade him to come and return before him. Make any excuse. Remember this, Watson.”

I saw Mrs. Hudson was waiting outside, trembling and crying. Below, as I waited for the cab, I met Inspector Morton of the Scotland Yard. He was not in his uniform.

“How is he?” asked Inspector Morton.

“He is very ill,” I answered.

I reached Mr. Culverton Smith’s house. The butler appeared at the doorway. Through the half-open door I heard a man’s voice telling the butler, “I am not at home, say so.” I pushed past the butler and entered the room. I saw a **frail** man with bald head sitting. “I am sorry,” I said, “but the matter cannot be delayed. Mr. Sherlock Holmes.....”



The mere mention of his name had a different effect on the man.

“Have you come from Holmes? How is he?” he asked.

“He is very ill. That is why I have come. Mr. Holmes has a high opinion of you and thought you are the only man in London who can help him.”

The little man was **startled**.

“Why?” he asked.

“Because of your knowledge of the Eastern diseases,” I replied.

“How did he get it?” he asked.

I told him everything. He smiled and agreed to come. Pretending that I had some other appointment. I left him. With a sinking heart I reached Holmes’ room. I told him that Mr. Smith was coming.

“Well done! Watson!” he said. “You have done everything that a good friend could do. Now you disappear to the next room. And don’t speak, or come here.”



e. Who did Watson see when he entered the room?

f. What were the instructions given by Holmes to Watson?

I heard the footsteps. I heard a voice say, "Holmes! Holmes! Can you hear me?"

"Is that you Mr. Smith?" Holmes whispered. "You know what is wrong with me. You are the only one in London who can cure me."

"Do you know the symptoms?" asked Smith.

"Only too well, Mr. Smith," and he described the symptoms.

"They are the same, Holmes," Smith said, "Poor Victor was a dead man on the fourth day - a strong and healthy young man. What a coincidence indeed!"

"I know that you did it," said Holmes.

"Well, you can't prove it."

"Give me water, please," Holmes groaned.

"Here." I heard Smith's voice.

"Cure me, please. Well, about Victor Savage's death. You did it. I'll forget everything, but cure me. I'll forget about it."

"You can forget or remember, just as you like. It doesn't matter to me how my nephew died. Watson said you got it from the Chinese sailors. Could there be any other reason?"

"I can't think. My mind is gone, help me," pleaded Holmes.

"Did anything come by post? A box by chance? On Wednesday?"

"Yes I opened it and there was a

sharp spring inside it. A joke perhaps. It drew blood," said Holmes.

"No, it was not a joke, you fool, you've got it. Who asked you to cross my path? You knew too much about Victor's death. Your end is near, Holmes. I'll carry this box in my pocket. The last piece of evidence!"

"Turn up the gas, Smith," said Holmes in his natural voice.

"Yes I will, so that I can see you better." There was silence. Then I heard Smith say, "What's all this?"

"Successful acting," said Holmes, "for three days I didn't taste anything - neither food nor drink."

g. Why did Holmes plead with Smith?

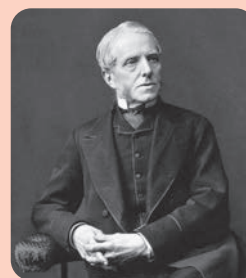
h. Who was responsible for Victor Savage's death? What was the evidence for it?

There were footsteps outside. The door opened and I heard Inspector Morton's voice. "I arrest you on charge of murder," he said.

DO  
YOU  
KNOW?

Joseph Bell (1837-1911).

He was a lecturer in medicine whose detective approach to diagnosis inspired Arthur Conan Doyle's character Sherlock Holmes. The wider picture in Scotland at the time is set out in our Historical Timeline. Joseph Bell was born in Edinburgh.





“If so, let me bring Sir Jaspert Meek or Penrose fisher, or Holmes”.

There was a sudden rush and **scuffle**, followed by the clash of iron and sudden cry of pain. There was a click of handcuffs. Holmes asked me to come in.

“Sorry, Watson, I was rude to you. I undermined your capability as a doctor. It was just to get Smith here. And I didn’t want you to know that I was not ill.”

“But your appearance--?” I said.

“Three days, fasting and the make-up did the trick.”

“The coins?”

“Oh! That was only to prove that I was delirious,” he laughed. “I need to eat now, Watson. Mr. Smith killed his nephew and he wanted to kill me the same way to avoid imprisonment. I need to eat now, Watson. I think that something nutritious

at Simpsons’ would not be out of place. And thank you, Watson,” he said.

- i. What explanation did Holmes give for speaking rudely to Watson?
- j. How was Holmes able to look sick?

### About the Author



**Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle** (1859-1930) was a British writer best known for his detective fiction featuring the character of Sherlock Holmes, which are generally considered milestones in the field of crime fiction. Doyle wrote short stories featuring the famous detective. The story is narrated by the character, Dr. Watson, originally a physician. In 1887, he published **A Study in Scarlet**, the first of four novels about Holmes and Dr. Watson. His notable works include **Stories of Sherlock Holmes** and **The Lost World**.



## Glossary

**gaunt** (adj.) - lean, especially because of suffering, hunger or age.

**twitched** (v) - gave short, sudden jerking movements.

**contagious** (adj.) - spreading of a disease from one person to another by direct contact

**groan** (v) - a deep inarticulate sound conveying pain or despair.

**plague** (n) - a contagious bacterial disease characterized by fever.

**bolted** (v) - closed the door with a bar that slides into a socket.

**mantle piece** (n) - a structure of wood or marble above or around the fireplace.

**half-crown** (n) - a former British coin equal to two shillings and sixpence (12 1/2p).

**tongs** (n) - a device used for picking up objects consisting of two long pieces free at one end and pressed together at the other end.

**delirious** (adj.) - disturbed state of mind characterized by restlessness.

**frail** (adj.) - weak and delicate.

**startled** (v) - felt sudden shock or alarm.

**scuffle** (v) - a sudden short fight

### A. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

1. Who was Mrs. Hudson?  
Why was she worried?



2. Why didn't Holmes let Watson examine him?
3. Why did Holmes warn Watson against touching his things? What was Watson's reaction?
4. What did Watson find on the table near the mantelpiece?
5. Who is Mr. Culverton Smith?
6. What did Holmes ask Watson to do before leaving his room?
7. What instructions did Holmes give Watson to get Mr. Smith?
8. Why did Holmes want Smith to treat him?
9. How did according to Smith Holmes get the disease?
10. Who arrested Smith? What were the charges against him?

### B. Answer the following questions in a paragraph of about 100-150 words.

1. How did Holmes trap Mr. Culverton Smith to confess the murder?
2. How did Watson help his friend to arrest the criminal?



## Vocabulary

**Homophones** are words that sound the same but have different meaning and spellings. The text has many homophones such as : **see-sea, hear-here, knew-new.**

### C. Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct options given.

1. Niteesh bought a \_\_\_\_\_ (knew/new) cricket bat.
2. The shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ (herd/heard) the cry of his sheep.
3. Lakshmi completed her baking \_\_\_\_\_ (course/coarse) successfully.
4. Priya has broken her \_\_\_\_\_ (four/fore) limbs.
5. Leaders of the world must work towards the \_\_\_\_\_ (peace/piece) of human race.

### Commonly confused words

English has a lot of commonly confused words. They either look alike or look and sound alike, but have completely different meanings and usage. Here are some examples from the text.

**brought** (v) - past participle of bring. E.g. Anitha had **brought** a book from the library.

**bought** (v) - past participle of buy. E.g. Lalitha had **bought** a new dress last week.

**affect** (v) - to have an effect on. E.g. The pet's death **affected** his master.

**effect** (n) - anything brought about by a cause or agent; result. E.g. Both El Nino and La Nina are opposite **effects** of the same phenomenon.

### D. Complete the tabular column by finding the meaning of both the words given in the boxes. Use them in sentences of your own.

<b>pocket</b> (n)-a small bag sewn into or on clothing to keep carry small things <b>packet</b> (n)-a paper or cardboard container, typically one in which goods are sold	Santa filled his <b>pocket</b> with candies. Maheswari carried a <b>packet</b> of ribbons.
<b>fond</b> (adj.)-having an affection or liking for <b>found</b> (v)-having been discovered by chance or unexpectedly	Puppies are <b>fond</b> of soft balls. Rosalin <b>found</b> a 100 rupee note on her way back home.
<b>lost</b> (v) <b>last</b> (adj.)	
<b>paused</b> (v) <b>passed</b> (v)	
<b>pitcher</b> (n) <b>picture</b> (n)	





## Listening

### E. \*Listen to the story and answer the questions given below

- Where does this story take place?
  - in a bakery
  - at the police station
  - in Ms. Gervis' house
  - in Ms. Gervis' apartment
- Near the beginning of the story, "Ms. Gervis' eyes are full of tears. Her hands are shaking." How does Ms. Gervis probably feel?
  - She is upset.
  - She is tired.
  - She is hungry.
  - She is confused.
- What makes the detective sure that the robber did not come through the windows?
  - The windows are locked.
  - The windows face the police station.
  - The windows have not been used in months.
  - The windows are too small for a person to fit through.
- What else was stolen from the apartment?
  - crystal
  - jewellery
  - money
  - nothing
- "And the robber definitely did not use the front door." Which is the best way to rewrite this sentence?
  - "And the robber may not have used the front door."
  - "And the robber probably did not use the front door."
  - "And the robber was not able to use the front door."
  - "And the robber certainly did not use the front door."
- What does Ms. Gervis do with her cakes?
  - She eats them.
  - She sells them.
  - She hides them.
  - She gives them away.
- What does the detective seem to think will happen if he solves the mystery?
  - Ms. Gervis will start baking cakes again
  - Ms. Gervis will bake him extra cakes
  - Ms. Gervis will give him her secret recipe
  - Ms. Gervis will give him money and jewels
- Do you like mysteries? What is your favourite kind of story? Explain.

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\*Listening text is on page-217



## Speaking

### REVIEW

A review is a critical assessment of a book, play, film, an event, etc. published in a newspaper or magazine.

Review process: (present it in info graphics)

- ❖ First, choose the piece/work (a book, movie, an article or event).
- ❖ Read the selected piece (a book/an article) or watch it (a movie/an event) cautiously until you understand it thoroughly.
- ❖ Focus on the main idea of the piece and its purpose.
- ❖ Critically evaluate the work.
- ❖ Make a note of all that is worthy of analysis.
- ❖ Summarise it in a brief way.
- ❖ Present it orally or in written form.

### F. Exercise

1. Present the review of a movie that you have watched recently.
2. Give the review of a book that has interested you a lot.
3. Review an event which your school has hosted recently.



## Reading

**Read the story carefully and answer the questions asked below**

### A Mystery Case

For a man of ease, John Mathew kept an arduous schedule. On Wednesdays, for example, he was awakened at 9.00 and served breakfast in bed by Emanuel, his chef. Next came a quick fitness session with Basky, his personal trainer. Then, at 10.30, John Mathew answered his mail, returned phone calls and rearranged his social calendar helped by Louise, his secretary. At noon, John Mathew drove his Jaguar to the station and took a commuter train into Guindy for his weekly lunch with Lalli and Lolly, his two oldest and dearest friends. Then, on to a little shopping. The 4:05 nonstop would bring him back to Tambaram. As John Mathew drove up to the house at 5:00, Basky would have already set up the massage table and warmed the scented oils for a soothing herbal wrap. It was a gruelling life but John seemed to thrive on it. On this Wednesday, however, there was an unexpected change of plans. Today John's shopping errand involved taking his diamond bracelet into the jeweller's for cleaning. He threw the expensive jewel into his purse and proceeded on to lunch.

As John waved his friends good-bye and exited the restaurant, he sensed he was being followed. The feeling continued until he reached Tenth Avenue. Then, as he joined the throng of shoppers, John felt a hug. Within a split-second, a man

riding pillion on a bike rode past him, grabbing his purse. He couldn't guess who the culprit was.

### G. Match the following.

1. A man of ease – Emanuel
2. John's trainer – Lalli and Lolly
3. Mathew's secretary – John Mathew
4. John's chef – Louise
5. Mathew's friends – Basky

### H. State whether the given statements are true or false. If false, correct the statements.

1. Mathew is a very busy man.
2. He woke up very late in the morning.
3. He always had lunch with his family.
4. He exercised with Louise every day.
5. He preferred handling mail by himself.



## Writing

### Pamphlet

- ❖ A **Pamphlet** is a small booklet or leaflet containing information or arguments about a single subject.
- ❖ They are helpful in presenting information in a more attractive

way and also easily accessible and economical to distribute.

- ❖ They are generally used for describing the product or instructions, commercial information, promotion of events or promoting tourism.

### HOW TO CREATE A PAMPHLET

**Step 1:** Finalise your text.

**Step 2:** Choose a layout.

**Step 3:** Add appropriate images.

**Step 4:** Ensure your pamphlet is cohesive and appealing.



### I. Create a pamphlet for the following:

1. Make a pamphlet on 'Dengue Awareness' (Focus on its causes, preventions, symptoms and precautions).
2. Make an attractive pamphlet for your school Fair organised for raising funds for (any) relief (Specify the date, time, types of stalls and the reasons for the fair).
3. Make a pamphlet on the latest gadgets (Mention the variety of models, uses, need and availability).

## Letter of Enquiry

A letter of enquiry is a formal letter, written to get more details / information about something. In this letter the word limit should not exceed 200 words. It is used to enquire and get details to purchase an item, to know about a course for study, a place for a trip, etc. It must include sender's details.

### Model of Enquiry Letter

**Vimala had purchased a laptop last year. She writes the following letter to the shop enquiring about the warranty coverage for the damage caused.**

**Mrs. Vimala**

342, Annai Theresa street

Chennai-16.

vimala1958@gmail.com

4<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**The Manager**

Digital Electronics

Chennai-4

**Subject:** Enquiry about damage replacement-regarding.

Madam / Sir,

Last year, I purchased a new Lenovo laptop in your shop during the New year offer. Now, the laptop's display is damaged. So I need to know whether there is any free replacement coverage or warranty period that covers the cost of repair. Please, let me know the best way to address this issue.

Thank you

**Yours faithfully,**

Vimala.M

### J. Write a letter of enquiry for the following

1. You are librarian in a newly established school. Write a letter to the book dealer inquiring about the list of newly arrived English children's story books and various subject books relevant to 10-14 age groups.
2. Venkat hails from a remote village of Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu who aspires to become an IAS officer. Currently, he is in class X. He notices an advertisement on free classes for the IAS aspirants by a trust in a newspaper. He writes a letter to the coordinator of the trust inquiring for further details.
3. Write a letter to the head of the BSNL office enquiry about the internet broadband scheme launched recently.





# Grammar



## SIMPLE, COMPLEX AND COMPOUND

Let us recall some important points that we learnt in the previous unit.

- ❖ Gerunds, Infinitives and Participles are Non Finite Verbs.
- ❖ Phrase is a group of words which does not contain a Finite Verb.
- ❖ Clause is a group of words which has a Finite Verb.
- ❖ Finite Verbs indicate the tense and time of actions.
- ❖ Non Finite Verbs do not indicate tense and time of actions.

Now, let us study about the three different kinds of sentences.

1. Simple
2. Complex
3. Compound

- ❖ A Simple sentence consists of only one Finite Verb.
- ❖ A Complex sentence has one Main Clause and one or more Subordinate Clauses.
- ❖ A Compound sentence has two Main Clauses combined by a Coordinating Conjunction.

## SIMPLE SENTENCE

### Examples

1. Ramu is too poor to buy a bicycle.
2. Despite his old age, Raghav walked fast.
3. In the event of not consulting a doctor, you cannot recover.
4. On seeing the teacher, the children stood up.
5. Due to a heavy downpour, the match was cancelled.

## COMPLEX SENTENCE

### Examples

1. Ramu is so poor that he cannot buy a bicycle.
2. Though Raghav was old, he walked fast
3. Unless you consult a doctor, you cannot recover.
4. As soon as the children saw the teacher, they stood up
5. As there was a heavy downpour, the match was cancelled.



## COMPOUND SENTENCE

### Examples

1. Ramu is very poor **and** he cannot buy a bicycle.
2. Raghav was old **yet** he walked fast.
3. You consult a doctor **otherwise** you cannot recover.
4. The children saw the teacher **and** they stood up.
5. There was a heavy downpour **and** the match was cancelled.

(In the above sentences, the words highlighted are conjunctions)

### A. Transform the following sentences as instructed.

1. On seeing the teacher, the children stood up. (into Complex)
2. At the age of six, Varsha started learning music. (into Complex)
3. As Varun is a voracious reader, he buys a lot of books. (into Simple)
4. Walk carefully lest you will fall down. (into Complex)
5. Besides being a dancer, she is a singer. (into Compound)
6. He is sick but he attends the rehearsal. (into Simple)
7. If Meena reads more, she will become proficient in the language. (into Compound)

8. He confessed that he was guilty. (into Simple)
9. The boy could not attend the special classes due to his mother's illness. (into Compound)
10. He followed my suggestion. (into Complex)

### B. Combine the pairs of sentences below into simple, complex and compound

1. Radha was ill. She was not hospitalised
2. The students were intelligent. They could answer the questions correctly.
3. I must get a visa. I can travel abroad
4. I saw a tiger. It was wounded
5. There was a bandh. The shops remained closed





## The House on Elm Street

*Nadia Bush*

Poem

It sat alone.  
What happened there is still today unknown.  
It is a very mysterious place,  
And inside you can tell it has a ton of space,  
But at the same time it is bare to the bone.

At night the house seems to be alive,  
Lights flicker on and off.  
I am often tempted to go to the house,  
To just take a look and see what it is really about,  
But fear takes over me.

I drive past the house almost every day.  
The house seems to be a bit brighter  
On this warm summer day in May.  
It plays with your mind.  
To me I say, it is one of a kind.

Beside the house sits a tree.  
It never grows leaves,  
Not in the winter, spring, summer or fall.  
It just sits there, never getting small or ever growing tall,  
How could this be?

Rumors are constantly being made,  
And each day the house just begins to fade.  
What happened inside that house?  
I really don't know.  
I guess it will always be a mystery.





**A. Read the given lines and answer the questions given below.**

1. *It sat alone.*

*What happened there is still today unknown.*

*It is a very mysterious place,*

*And inside you can tell it has a ton of space,*

*But at the same time it is bare to the bone.*

- What does 'It' refer to?
- Pick out the line that indicates the size of the house



2. *I drive past the house almost every day.*

*The house seems to be a bit brighter.*

*On this warm summer day in May.*

*It plays with your mind.*

- Who does 'I' refer to?
- Pick out the alliterated words in the 2nd line.

3. *It never grows leaves,*

*Not in the winter, spring, summer or fall.*

*It just sits there never getting small or ever growing tall*

- What does 'it' refer to?
- In what way the tree is a mystery?

4. *Rumors are constantly being made,*

*And each day the house just begins to fade.*

*What happened inside that house?*

- Does the house remain the same every day?
- Why does the poet consider the house to be a mystery?

5. *What happened inside that house?*

*I really don't know*

*I guess it will always be a mystery*

- Does the poet know what happened in the house?
- What is the mysterious about the house?



**B. Answer the following in a paragraph.**

1. Where is the house located? Why is it a mysterious place?
2. How is mystery depicted in the poem?

**C. Read the poem and write the rhyming words and rhyme scheme for the given stanzas.**

Stanza	Rhyming words	Rhyme Scheme
1	alone - _____ - _____	
	_____ - space	
3	_____ - May	
	mind - _____	
4	tree - _____	
	_____ - tall	

**D. Identify the poetic lines where the following figures of speech are employed and complete the tabular column.**

Figure of speech	Meaning	Lines
Synecdoche	A figure of speech in which a part is made to represent the whole or vice versa.	
	<b>e.g. "The Western wave was all a-flame."</b>	
	The "Western wave" is a synecdoche as it refers to the sea by the name of one of its parts i.e. wave.	
Paradox	A figure of speech in which a statement appears to contradict itself.	
	<b>e.g. To bring peace we must war. Be cruel to be kind.</b>	
Onomatopoeia	A figure of speech wherein the word imitates the sound associated with the object it refers to.	
	<b>e.g. Pitter patter, pitter patter Raindrops on my pane.</b>	
Rhetorical Questions	A figure of speech in the form of a question that is asked to make a point rather than to elicit an answer.	
	<b>e.g. And what is so rare as a day in June?</b>	

# 7

## A Dilemma

Silas Weir Mitchell

Supplementary

I was just thirty-seven when my Uncle Philip died. A week before that event he sent for me; and here let me say that I had never set eyes on him. He hated my mother, but I do not know why. She told me long before his last illness that I need expect nothing from my father's brother. He was an inventor, an able and **ingenious** mechanical engineer, and had much money by his improvement in turbine-wheels. He was a bachelor; lived alone, cooked his own meals, and collected precious stones, especially rubies and pearls. From the time he made his first money he had this **mania**. As he grew richer, the desire to possess rare and costly gems became stronger. When he bought a new stone, he carried it in his pocket for a month and now and then took it out and looked at it. Then it was added to the collection in his safe at the trust company.



At the time he sent for me I was a clerk, and poor enough. Remembering my mother's words, his message gave me, his sole relative, no new hopes; but I thought it best to go.



When I sat down by his bedside, he began, with a **malicious** grin:

"I suppose you think me **queer**. I will explain." What he said was certainly queer enough. "I have been living on an annuity into which I put my fortune. In other words, I have been, as to money, concentric half of my life to enable me to be as eccentric as I pleased the rest of it. Now I repent of my wickedness to you all, and desire to live in the memory of at least one of my family. You think I am poor and have only my annuity. You will be profitably surprised. I have never parted with my precious stones; they will be yours. You are my sole heir. I shall carry with me to the other world the satisfaction of making one man happy.

"No doubt you have always had expectations, and I desire that you should continue to expect. My jewels are in my safe. There is nothing else left".

When I thanked him he grinned all over his lean face, and said:

"You will have to pay for my funeral."

I must say that I never looked forward to any expenditure with more pleasure than to what it would cost me to put him away in the earth. As I rose to go, he said:

“The rubies are valuable. They are in my safe at the trust company. Before you unlock the box, be very careful to read a letter which lies on top of it; and be sure not to shake the box.” I thought this odd. “Don’t come back. It won’t hasten things.”

He died that day next week, and was handsomely buried. The day after, his will was found, leaving me his heir. I opened his safe and found in it nothing but an iron box, evidently of his own making, for he was a skilled workman and very ingenious. The box was heavy and strong, about ten inches long, eight inches wide and ten inches high.



On it lay a letter to me. It ran thus:



“DEAR TOM: This box contains a large number of very fine pigeon-blood rubies and a fair lot of diamonds; one is blue—a beauty. There are hundreds of pearls—one the famous green pearl and a necklace of blue pearls, for which any woman would sell her soul—or her affections.” I thought of Susan. “I wish you to continue to have expectations and continuously to remember your dear uncle. I would have left these stones to some charity, but I hate the poor as much as I hate your mother’s son,—yes, rather more. “The box contains an interesting mechanism, which will act with certainty as you unlock it, and explode ten ounces of my improved, supersensitive dynamite—no, to be accurate, there are only nine and a half ounces. Doubt me, and open it, and you will be blown to atoms. Believe me, and you will continue to nourish expectations which will never be fulfilled. As a considerate man, I counsel extreme care in handling the box. Don’t forget your affectionate UNCLE”

I stood **appalled**, the key in my hand. Was it true? Was it a lie? I had spent all my savings on the funeral, and was poorer than ever.

Remembering the old man’s **oddity**, his malice, his cleverness in mechanic arts, and the patent explosive which had helped to make him rich, I began to feel how very likely it was that he had told the truth in this cruel letter.

I carried the iron box away to my lodgings, set it down with care in a closet, laid the key on it, and locked the **closet**.

Then I sat down, as yet hopeful, and began to exert my ingenuity upon ways of opening the box without being killed. There must be a way.

After a week of vain thinking I bethought me, one day, that it would be easy to explode the box by unlocking it at a safe distance, and I arranged a plan with wires, which seemed as if it would answer. But when I reflected on what would happen when the dynamite scattered the rubies, I knew that I should be none the richer. For hours at a time I sat looking at that box and handling the key.

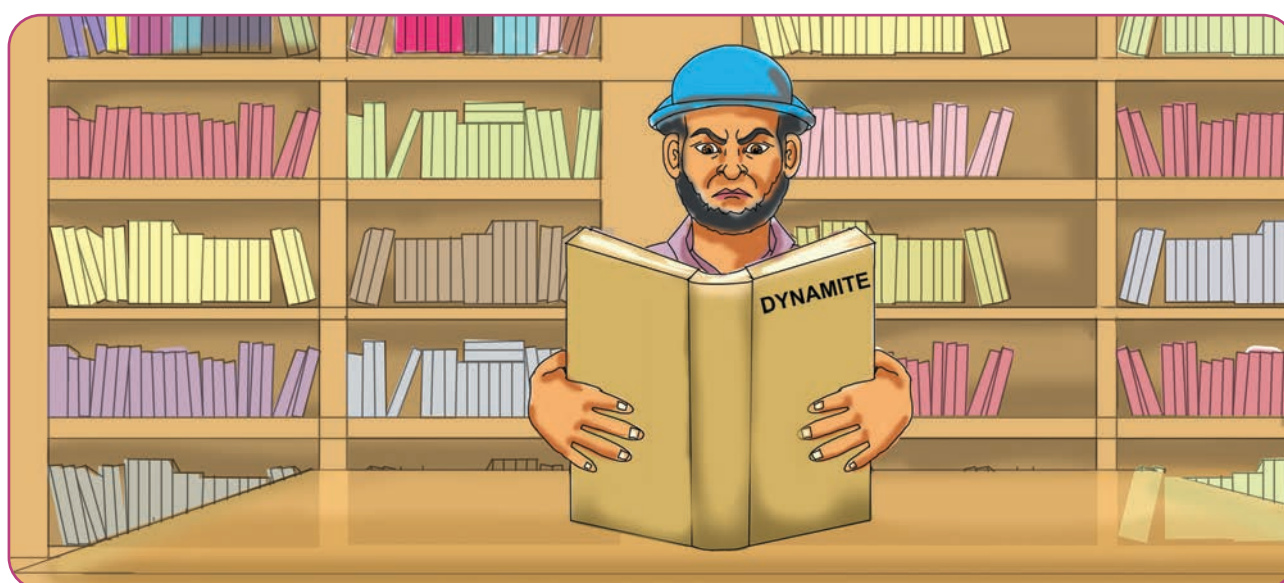
At last I hung the key on my watch-guard; but then it occurred to me that it might be lost or stolen. Dreading this, I hid it, fearful that someone might use it to open the box. This state of doubt and fear lasted for weeks, until I became nervous and began to dread that some accident might happen to that box. A burglar might come and boldly carry it away and force it open and find it was a wicked fraud of my uncle's. Even the rumble and vibration caused by the heavy vans in the street became at last a terror.

Worst of all, my salary was reduced, and I saw that marriage was out of the question.

In my despair I consulted Professor Clinch about my dilemma, and as to some safe way of getting at the rubies. He said that, if my uncle had not lied, there was none that would not ruin the stones, especially the pearls, but that it was a silly tale and altogether **incredible**. I offered him the biggest ruby if he wished to test his opinion. He did not desire to do so.

Dr. Schaff, my uncle's doctor, believed the old man's letter, and added a caution, which was entirely useless, for by this time I was afraid to be in the room with that terrible box.

At last the doctor kindly warned me that I was in danger of losing my mind with too much thought about my rubies. In fact, I did nothing else but **contrive** wild plans to get at them safely. I spent all my spare hours at one of the great libraries reading about dynamite.







Indeed, I talked of it until the library attendants, believing me a lunatic or a dynamite fiend, declined to humor me, and spoke to the police. I suspect that for a while I was “shadowed” as a suspicious, and possibly criminal, character. I gave up the libraries, and, becoming more and more fearful, set my precious box on a down pillow, for fear of its being shaken; for at this time even the absurd possibility of its being disturbed by an earthquake troubled me. I tried to calculate the amount of shake needed to explode my box.

The old doctor, when I saw him again, begged me to give up all thought of the matter, and, as I felt how completely I was the slave of one **despotic** idea, I tried to take the good advice thus given me.

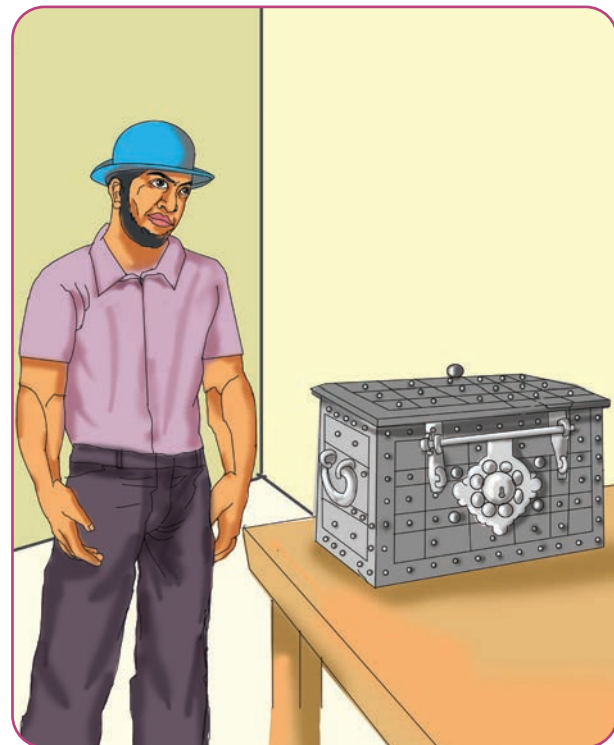
Unhappily, I found, soon after, between the leaves of my uncle’s Bible, a numbered list of the stones with their cost and much beside. It was dated two years before my uncle’s death. Many of the stones were well known, and their enormous value amazed me.

Several of the rubies were described with care, and curious histories of them were given in detail. One was said to be the famous “Sunset ruby,” which had belonged to the Empress-Queen Maria Theresa. One was called the “Blood ruby,” not, as was explained, because of the color, but on account of the murders it had occasioned. Now, as I read, it seemed again to threaten death.

The pearls were described with care as an unequalled collection. Concerning two of them my uncle had written what I

might call biographies—for, indeed, they seemed to have done much evil and some good. One, a black pearl, was mentioned in an old bill of sale as—She—which seemed queer to me.

It was maddening. Here, guarded by a vision of sudden death, was wealth “beyond the dreams of **avarice**.” I am not a clever or ingenious man; I know little beyond how to keep a ledger, and so I was, and am, no doubt, absurd about many of my notions as to how to solve this riddle.



At one time I thought of finding a man who would take the risk of unlocking the box, but what right had I to subject anyone else to the trial I dared not face? I could easily drop the box from a height somewhere, and if it did not explode could then safely unlock it; but if it did blow up when it fell, good-bye to my rubies. Mine, indeed! I was rich, and I was not. I grew thin and morbid, and so miserable that, I at last carried my troubles to my father



confessor. He thought it simply a cruel **jest** of my uncle's, but was not so eager for another world as to be willing to open my box.

He, too, counselled me to cease thinking about it. Good heavens! I dreamed about it. Not to think about it was impossible. Neither my own thought nor science nor religion had been able to assist me.

Two years have gone by, and I am one of the richest men in the city, and have no more money than will keep me alive.

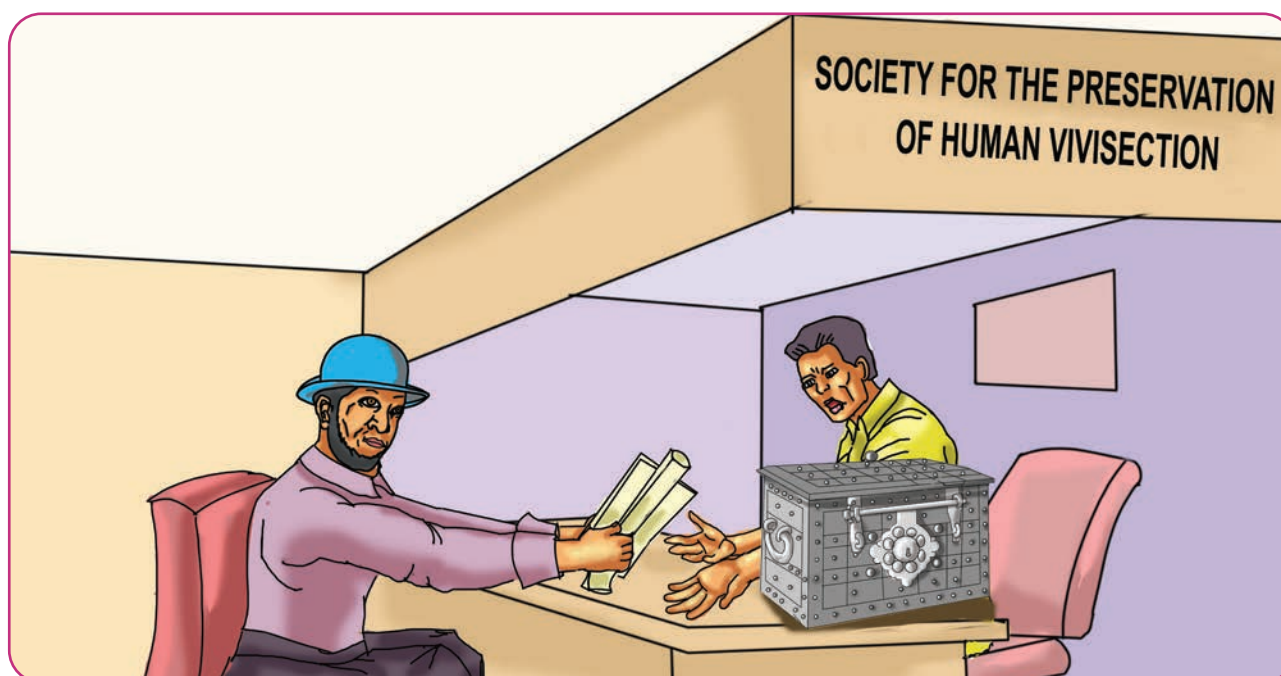
Susan said I was half cracked like Uncle Philip, and broke off her engagement. In my despair I advertised in the Journal of Science, and have had absurd schemes sent me by the dozen. At last, as I talked too much about it, the thing became so well known that when I put the horror in a safe, in a bank, I was promptly desired to withdraw it. I was in constant fear of burglars, and my landlady gave me notice to leave, because

no one would stay in the house with that box. I am now advised to print my story and await advice from the ingenuity of the American mind.

I have moved into the suburbs and hidden the box and changed my name and my occupation. This I did to escape the curiosity of the reporters. I ought to say that when the government officials came to hear of my inheritance, they were reasonably desired to collect the succession tax on my uncle's estate.

I was delighted to assist them. I told the collector my story, and showed him Uncle Philip's letter. Then I offered him the key, and asked for time to get half a mile away. That man said he would think it over and come back later.

This is all I have to say. I have made a will and left my rubies and pearls to the Society for the Preservation of Human **Vivisection**. If any man thinks this account a joke or an invention, let him coldly imagine the situation:



Given an iron box, known to contain wealth, and to contain dynamite, arranged to explode when the key is used to unlock it – what would any sane man do? What would he advise?

#### About the author:



**Silas Weir Mitchell** (1829-1914) was a neurologist by profession. He was among the famous physicians of his time and a prolific writer of both scientific and literary works. He was born in Philadelphia, studied at the University of Pennsylvania and received the degree of M.D. in 1850. He is considered the father of neurology as well as a pioneer in scientific medicine. He published more than 25 literary titles and his medical experiences and background enabled him to write historical fiction with much psychological insight. Many honorary degrees were conferred upon him by several Universities at home and abroad. The American Academy of Neurology award for young researchers is named after him.



## Glossary

**ingenious** (adj.) - clever, original and inventive

**mania** (n) - an extensive, persistent desire, an obsession

**malicious** (adj.) - spiteful, intended to harm or upset someone

**queer** (adj.) - strange, odd

**appalled** (adj.) - horrified, shocked

**oddity** (n) - the quality being strange or peculiar

**closet** (n) - cupboard

**incredible** (adj.) - impossible to believe

**contrive** (v) - cook up, hatch a plan by deliberate use of skills

**despotic** (adj.) - tyrannical, autocratic

**avarice** (n) - extreme greed for wealth

**jest** (n) - a joke

**vivisection** (n) - a surgery conducted on a living organism for experimental purposes.

**A. Read the given lines carefully and identify the character / speaker:**



1. I suppose you think me queer. I will explain.
2. Don't come back. It won't hasten things.
3. He thought it simply a cruel jest.
4. He did not desire to do so.
5. He would think it over and come back later.



**B. Based on your understanding of the story, answer the following briefly.**

1. What did the uncle do as soon as he bought a stone?
2. What did the uncle bequeath to the narrator?
3. What was the condition laid by the uncle to inherit his property?
4. Why do you think Tom happily looked forward to the expenditure for his uncle's funeral?
5. Write a few words about the mechanism used in the iron box.
6. What was the counsel offered to the narrator?
7. Why and when was the narrator shocked?
8. What was the doctor's warning to Tom?
9. Why didn't Tom dare to assign the task of unlocking the box to someone?

**C. Answer the questions given below in a paragraph of 150 words.**

1. Describe briefly the contents of the letter written by Tom's uncle.
2. Explain the efforts taken by Tom to open the iron box. Did he succeed? Why?

**D. Fill in the blanks with the right options and write down the summary of the story 'A dilemma'.**

1. The narrator was sent for, by his uncle when he was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(on his deathbed / on his travels / in his workplace)

2. The uncle had collected precious \_\_\_\_\_. (jewels / stones / articles)
3. His uncle announced Tom as his heir and wanted him to pay for his \_\_\_\_\_. (rented house / marriage / funeral)
4. Leaving an iron box for Tom, his uncle instructed him not to \_\_\_\_\_ the box. (throw / carry / shake)
5. The letter read that the box contained \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a sensitive dynamite / jewels / money)
6. He started thinking of all possible ways to open the box without being \_\_\_\_\_.  
(wounded / killed / maimed)
7. He planned to explode the box at \_\_\_\_\_ but dropped the plan in fear of losing the rubies. (home / a safe distance / a waste land)
8. His consultation with \_\_\_\_\_ did not yield him any fruitful solution.  
(Uncle Philip / Professor Clinch / Susan)
9. He failed in his attempts to open the box. His efforts to read about explosives led to (hopes / confusions / suspicions) and he had to change his \_\_\_\_\_.  
(name and occupation / lodgings / appearance)
10. At last, he bequeathed the box to \_\_\_\_\_. (his offspring / his friends / the Society)



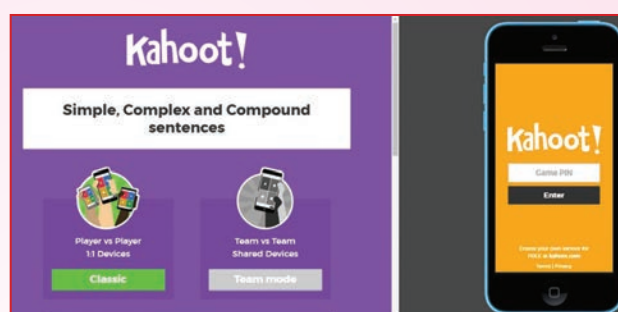




## ICT CORNER

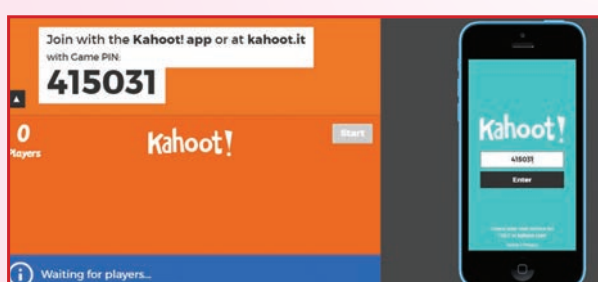
# Grammar – Simple, Complex And Compound Sentences

- ❖ To learn the sentence types
- ❖ To identify Simple, Complex and compound sentences

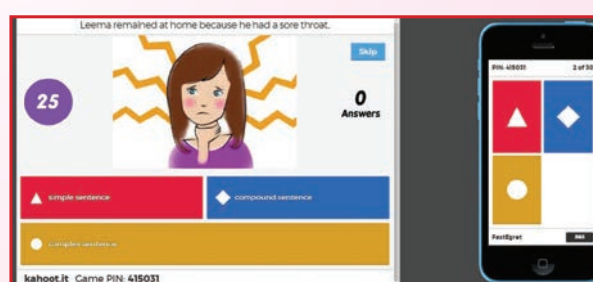


### Steps

1. Type the URL link given below in the browser or scan the QR code.
2. Display the questions on screen .Select Classic or team mode
3. Type game pin in your mobile to start quiz
4. Click on the Correct colour symbol options in your mobile for the displayed questions.
5. Check your scores at the end of the game and announce the top three winners



Step 1



Step 2



### Download Link

Click the following link or scan the QR code to access the website.

<https://create.kahoot.it/share/simple-complex-and-compound-sentences/10e6f440-33a1-46ba-aca3-cec7233ec54a>

\*\* Images are indicative only.