

The King of Mazy May (page 158)

Grammar SkillBuilder: Sentence Variety

Key Concept: Writers use different sentence structures and lengths to make their writing interesting, and to keep it from becoming dull or monotonous.

Sentence Variety

Sentences can vary in length and structure. A **simple sentence** contains one subject and one verb. Sentences can be made more interesting either by combining two or more sentences to make a **compound sentence**, or by combining a main clause and a subordinate clause to make a **complex sentence**.

Examples:

<i>Simple</i>	The boy made his breakfast.
<i>Compound</i>	He made toast and then he spread it with jam.
<i>Complex</i>	Because he was still hungry, he cooked some pancakes. He ate every single one of the pancakes that he had cooked.

Activity

Combine each set of simple sentences below to create one compound or complex sentence. To rewrite the sentences you may add, delete, or change words.

1. The moon rose. He was off Sixty Mile.
2. He was almost exhausted. He climbed on the sled.
3. He traveled from trading post to trading post with his father. Walt's mother died.
4. Walt was able to stay in the cabin. He could cook his meals. He could look after things.
5. He did not like the men. They were claim-jumpers.
6. Loren Hall was Walt's neighbor. He was walking to Dawson.
7. The men thawed the ground. They washed the dirt. They found gold.
8. Walt needed to help. His father had taken the dogs.
9. Walt found Loren Hall on the trail. They both traveled to Dawson.
10. Walt stayed awake all night. He fell asleep at the commissioner's office.