



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Breaking Down Sentences

An activity of "Florida's snake invasion"

Complex and compound sentences both contain two (or more) thoughts joined by a conjunction.

How do you differentiate between the two types of sentences?

- The two thoughts in a **compound** sentence are independent and equal:
 - *She drank some milk and ate her toast.*
 - There are two independent thoughts: "*She ate her toast.*" and "*She drank some milk.*"
- The two thoughts in a **complex** sentence are unequal; one is independent and the other is dependent (it is not a complete thought):
 - *Because she was thirsty, she drank some milk.*
 - "*Because she was thirsty*" is not a complete thought — it is a dependent one and is connected to "*she drank some milk*".

The following sentences are from the article "Florida's snake invasion" (page 14, *What's Up* September 2019). For each sentence, say if it is complex or compound. Then, underline its connector, and break it down into simple sentences.

No.	Original sentence	Type	Simple sentences
1	Once the snakes grew too large to handle at home, their owners released them into the wild.	<input type="checkbox"/> complex <input type="checkbox"/> compound	
2	When humans introduced the Burmese python into this environment, that balance was thrown into disarray.	<input type="checkbox"/> complex <input type="checkbox"/> compound	
3	The snakes have incredibly stretchy joints connecting their jaws to their heads, so they can eat animals much larger than their mouths.	<input type="checkbox"/> complex <input type="checkbox"/> compound	
4	Prof Mazzotti has been studying these snakes for more than a decade, and has been working hard to control their population.	<input type="checkbox"/> complex <input type="checkbox"/> compound	
5	The python coils its body around its prey to strangle and crush it before eating it.	<input type="checkbox"/> complex <input type="checkbox"/> compound	