

Fact and Opinion

- A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false.
- A **statement of opinion** is what someone thinks or feels. Statements of opinion often contain words that make judgments, such as *interesting* or *beautiful*.
- A single sentence might contain both a statement of fact and a statement of opinion.

Directions Read the following passage.

Jackie Robinson was the first African American baseball player to play in the modern major leagues. I think he was very brave to do so. He played in the Negro Leagues until 1947 when he was signed to the Brooklyn Dodgers. Despite controversy about Robinson breaking the color barrier, he was an immediate

success. At the end of his first season, Robinson was named Rookie of the Year. During his third season, he won the league's batting title and was later named the league's Most Valuable Player. He was probably the most valuable player of the entire twentieth century.

For each statement, circle *F* or *O* to tell whether it is a fact or an opinion. Circle the words in the sentence that tell you the statement is an opinion.

- F** **O** 1. I think Jackie Robinson was very brave to play in the major leagues.
- F** **O** 2. Jackie Robinson was the first African American baseball player to play in the modern major leagues.
- F** **O** 3. Jackie Robinson was probably the most valuable player of the twentieth century.
- F** **O** 4. Jackie Robinson was named the league's Most Valuable Player.
- F** **O** 5. The Brooklyn Dodgers signed Jackie Robinson.



Home Activity Your child read a short passage and identified whether statements were facts or opinions. Read a newspaper article and an editorial about the same current event with your child. Have your child analyze which statements are facts and which are opinions.

Writing • Newsletter Article

Key Features of a Newsletter Article

- presents basic facts, and then adds details
- typically tells about an event, idea, or person
- includes direct quotations to enhance the article
- answers the questions: *Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?*

Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali is a legendary fighter. He began boxing when he was twelve, and in 1960 he won a gold medal at the Olympics in Rome. After that, he became a professional boxer.

Ali's career is legendary, and with good reason: Not only did he not lose a professional fight until 1971, but Ali was a great showman. He taunted opponents and relied on his quick reflexes to dodge punches in the ring. He once spoke of an opponent, "Frazier is so ugly that he should donate his face to the US Bureau of Wild Life."

In 1964, Ali defeated Sonny Liston to become the heavyweight champion of the world. He lost few fights after that and truly earned his reputation as one of our country's greatest athletes. He had many fans of all races at a time when it was hard for black Americans to rise above racial

discrimination. He once said, "I wish people would love everybody else the way they love me. It would be a better world."

Though he faced countless tough opponents during his boxing career, Ali faced his biggest challenge when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's is a disease that affects the central nervous system and causes people to lose control of their movements. While the disease may have silenced Ali (he speaks rarely because of the way in which Parkinson's affects his voice), it has not stopped him from fighting for what he believes. He continues to battle against Parkinson's disease as well as other problems, such as world hunger, poverty, and human rights' abuses. Even in the face of his greatest challenge, Muhammad Ali remains a champion.

1. Read the article. Who is the article about? What is he known for?

2. Name three important events in Muhammad Ali's life.

Vocabulary

Directions Draw a line to match each word on the left with its definition on the right.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1. fastball | firm belief in yourself |
| 2. unique | a pitch thrown at high speed |
| 3. weakness | laughing at; making fun of |
| 4. confidence | having no like or equal |
| 5. mocking | a weak point; slight fault |

Check the Words You Know

- ___ confidence
- ___ fastball
- ___ mocking
- ___ outfield
- ___ unique
- ___ weakness
- ___ windup

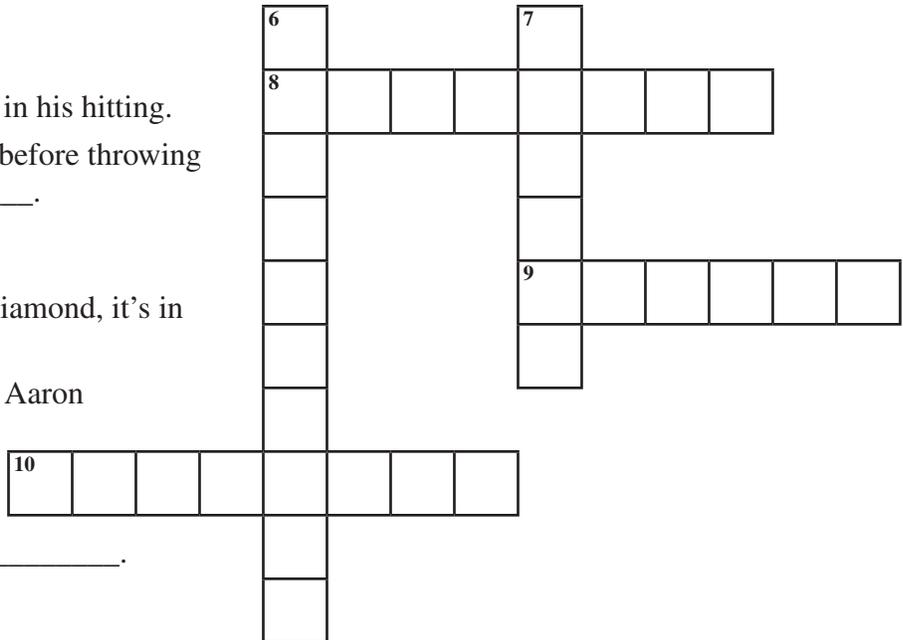
Directions Choose the word from the box to complete each clue and fill in the crossword puzzle.

DOWN

- 6. We have full _____ in his hitting.
- 7. Motions the pitcher makes before throwing the ball is called a _____.

ACROSS

- 8. If the ball is hit out of the diamond, it's in the _____.
- 9. A standout hitter like Hank Aaron is _____ among players.
- 10. Running too slowly is a player's major _____.



Write a News Report

On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief television news report about a baseball game, using as many vocabulary words as you can.



Home Activity Your child identified and used vocabulary words found in the biographical story *Satchel Paige*. Look in the sports pages of a newspaper and read a description of a sporting event with your child. See if you can identify any of the vocabulary words in the article.

Compound and Complex Sentences

A **simple sentence** expresses a complete thought. It has a subject and a predicate.

The Negro League formed in 1920.

A **compound sentence** contains two simple sentences joined by a comma and a conjunction such as *and*, *but*, or *or*.

The athletes played several games a day, and they traveled on a bus.

A **complex sentence** contains an independent clause, which can stand alone, and a dependent clause, which cannot stand alone. The clauses are joined by a word such as *if*, *when*, *because*, *until*, *before*, *after*, or *since*. In the following sentence, the independent clause is underlined once; the dependent clause is underlined twice.

Many years would pass before the major leagues were integrated.

Directions Join each pair of simple sentences with *and*, *but*, or *or*. Write the compound sentence on the lines. Change punctuation and capital letters as necessary.

1. My sister can hit the ball hard. She pitches well too.

2. The game should have started at one o'clock. A thunderstorm began at 12:45.

3. The teams will make up the game next Sunday. They will wait until the end of the season.

Directions Write *compound* after each compound sentence. Write *complex* after each complex sentence. Underline the word that joins the two clauses in each sentence.

4. All players are important to a team, but the pitcher may be most important. _____
5. If a pitcher strikes out batters, the opposing team cannot score. _____
6. Outfielders must catch the ball when the batter hits a pop fly. _____
7. The game was tied, and no one left the bleachers. _____
8. The pitcher struck out two batters, but the third batter hit a home run. _____



Home Activity our child learned about compound and complex sentences. Have your child write a paragraph about a baseball game, using at least one compound sentence and one complex sentence.

Adding *-ed*, *-ing*

Spelling Words

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| supplied | supplying | denied | denying | decided |
| deciding | included | including | admitted | admitting |
| occurred | occurring | qualified | qualifying | identified |
| identifying | delayed | delaying | satisfied | satisfying |

Word Pairs Write the best list words to complete each sentence pair.

Were you (1)_____ with lunch? I found the food very (2)_____.

1. _____ 2. _____

David (3)_____ that he lost his key. (4)_____ guilt was the best thing to do in his case.

3. _____ 4. _____

Did you see the eclipse as it was (5)_____? Last time one (6)_____, I missed it.

5. _____ 6. _____

The runners lined up for the (7)_____ race. After that race, only three runners (8)_____ for the team.

7. _____ 8. _____

My lost cat has an (9)_____ number tattooed on her skin. She was easily (10)_____ as mine when she was found.

9. _____ 10. _____

I have so much trouble (11)_____ between piano or karate lessons. Have you (12)_____ on a choice yet?

11. _____ 12. _____

The coach used many (13)_____ tactics, such as time-outs, during the game. Then the final quarter was (14)_____ by the rain.

13. _____ 14. _____

The school closet was fully (15)_____ with pencils. Do you think the school will be (16)_____ pencils for the big test?

15. _____ 16. _____

Stop (17)_____ that you broke the window! Even though you (18)_____ it, we all saw your ball break the window.

17. _____ 18. _____

Are you (19)_____ olives on your shopping list? I've (20)_____ carrots, celery, and pickles on my list.

19. _____ 20. _____



Name _____



Five-Column Chart

| | |
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Vocabulary • Antonyms

- An **antonym** is a word that means the opposite of another word.
- Words such as *unlike*, *but*, and *instead* may indicate the presence of antonyms.
- A **thesaurus**, a book that lists words and their antonyms and synonyms (words that mean the same thing), may help bring *clarity*, instead of *confusion*, to your writing and reading.

Directions Read the following passage about an athlete. Then circle the words in the list below that complete antonym pairs. Use a thesaurus to help you.

Although Pete was born without legs, he refused the idea that his disability should slow him down. Unlike people who accepted misfortune as an excuse to give up, Pete tried to live life to the fullest. It was true that his wheelchair sometimes made him feel confined at school. But on the weekends, his favorite sport, rock climbing, made him feel completely free.

Pete always used caution when fastening his ropes and caring for his equipment. Two hundred feet above the rocky bottom of a canyon was no place for recklessness! Starting at the base of a cliff, he would pull his way up to the pinnacle. After straining for hours, he would reach the top, exhausted. Pete didn't feel that school was boring, but it didn't match the exhilarating feeling that came from the physical and mental challenge of rock-climbing.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. refused | disability | excuse | accepted |
| 2. free | confined | completely | favorite |
| 3. caution | recklessness | rocky | caring |
| 4. base | cliff | reach | pinnacle |
| 5. boring | mental | feeling | exhilarating |



Home Activity Your child read a short passage and identified antonyms, words that mean the opposite of each other. Have your child describe a familiar person, place, or thing using words and their antonyms, using a dictionary, glossary, or thesaurus for help.

Newspaper/Newsletter

- A **newspaper** is a daily (or weekly) periodical that contains timely news and information on current events and issues. Daily newspapers use various text features in providing local, regional, national, and international news. Most newspapers organize information from most important to least important. There are three basic kinds of articles found in a newspaper: news stories, editorials (opinions pieces), and feature stories.
- A **newsletter** is a brief publication by a group or organization that contains news of interest to that group's members.

Directions Read the newspaper page and answer the questions below.

HOMETOWN NEWS

JULY 17, 2004

Cloudy, 72°

BARR HITS FOR THE CYCLE—AGAIN

Hometown hero Billy Barr has been having the kind of week baseball players can only dream of. Last night, for the third game in a row, Barr hit for the cycle, which means he hit a single, a double, a triple, and a home run.

“I guess my grandfather was looking out for me tonight,” said Barr after the game, referring to his grandfather Alan Barr, one of

the first Negro League players to break into Major League baseball in the 1950s. Billy Barr frequently makes reference to his grandfather, who inspired his grandson to play baseball.

The last time a Major League player hit for the cycle in three consecutive games was in 1971, when Sal Bando did it for the Oakland Athletics.

1. Where do you find the date on a newspaper's front page?

2. How does the headline give you a clue to what the article will be about?

3. Most newspapers give the daily weather forecast somewhere on the front page. What is the forecast for this day?

4. Why does the writer mention the last time this event occurred at the very end of the article?

5. Which of the three basic types of articles is this one?

Directions Read the selection from the newsletter and answer the questions below.

EVANSTON SOCCER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Hello Evanston soccer families!

The new season starts soon, and we're busy getting our teams and coaches organized and ready to play. As you can imagine, it's a lot of work. So once again we are asking for volunteers to help us out for the new season. We are an all-volunteer organization. In 2006 we won the Regional Youth Soccer Organization of the year award because of the great support our volunteers gave us. We want to make it two in a row for this year!

Volunteering only requires a few hours of your time each week. Currently, we need about forty parents to volunteer to be coaches, referees, and board members.

We know how busy everyone's lives are, but our organization can only succeed if everyone pitches in. We hope you'll consider volunteering this year!

6. To whom is this newsletter story directed?

7. Who do you think would receive a copy of this newsletter?

8. Name two things this newsletter specifically asks soccer parents to volunteer to do.

9. Based on this newsletter article, who runs this youth soccer organization?

10. If you wanted to find out about a big event happening in your city, where would you go to find out the information—a newspaper or a newsletter? Why?



Adding *-ed*, *-ing*

Proofread a Newspaper Article This is an article from a local weekly newspaper. Circle six spelling errors. Write the sentence with a punctuation error correctly. Write the corrections on the lines below.

Three Caught After Holdup
by Rosy Redeye

The crime ocurred after midnight. The store's videotape identified three suspects. The store owner supplied the license plate number to the police department. Geting the results took no time. The police quickly located the car and suspects They had trouble admitting their wrongdoing. However, in front of the judge, they decided to admit everything. The police were satisfied that they had solved the case.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | _____ |

Spelling Words

supplied
supplying
denied
denying
decided
deciding
included
including
admitted
admitting

occurred
occurring
qualified
qualifying
identified
identifying
delayed
delaying
satisfied
satisfying

Frequently Misspelled Words

getting
decided
stopped

Proofread Words Circle the correct spelling of the word.

- | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| 8. ocured | occurred | ocured |
| 9. included | includid | includ |
| 10. qualifed | qualifide | qualified |
| 11. deecided | decided | decidedd |
| 12. satesfying | satisfying | satisfyingg |
| 13. admitted | admitid | admetted |
| 14. suppliing | sapplying | supplying |



Home Activity Your child identified misspelled list words. Select three list words and ask your child to spell them.

Compound and Complex Sentences

Directions Read the passage. Then read each question. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

Just For Fun

(1) Every day Ted and I play catch, or we join our friends in a game. (2) We love the game, but we aren't the best players. (3) They say that if you practice every day, you will do better. (4) Today, our game was fun because the crowd cheered us on. (5) Although our team played well, we still lost. (6) Because we have fun, we don't mind an occasional loss. (7) We keep score, but we really play just for fun.

- 1 In sentence 1, *Every day Ted and I play catch* is what?
 - A Dependent clause
 - B Independent clause
 - C Compound sentence
 - D Complex sentence
- 2 In sentence 2, which word is a conjunction?
 - A We
 - B aren't
 - C but
 - D best
- 3 Sentence 4 is which type of sentence?
 - A Compound sentence
 - B Complex sentence
 - C Simple sentence
 - D Exclamatory sentence
- 4 What is the dependent clause in sentence 5?
 - A our team lost
 - B we still lost
 - C our team played well
 - D Although our team played well
- 5 Sentence 7 is which type of sentence?
 - A Compound sentence
 - B Complex sentence
 - C Simple sentence
 - D Exclamatory sentence



Home Activity Your child reviewed compound and complex sentences. Ask your child to explain how a game is played using some compound and complex sentences.