

1-7. Choose the best compound coordinator from the box to join these sentences.

for
and
nor
but
or
yet
so

- (1) John didn't do any revision for the exam, _____ he got the highest score in the class.
- (2) The class finished early, _____ I had time to go to the gym.
- (3) The committee decided to allow the member to join the club, _____ they also allowed him to pay a reduced fee.
- (4) The price of oil rose steeply, _____ it still remained lower than the previous year's price.
- (5) Doctors recommend eating at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables every day, _____ it helps to prevent disease.
- (6) Students who apply to the university late cannot be guaranteed a place, _____ can they be sure that they will receive a refund of their course fees.
- (7) Employees who work late can claim an overtime payment, _____ they can receive an extra day off every month.

8-10. Join the 2 sentences using "nor". Remember that the words order after "nor" should look like a question.

*e.g. I don't eat fish. I don't eat eggs.
I don't eat fish, nor do I eat eggs.*

(8) I can't work on Friday. I can't stay late on Monday evening.

(9) You shouldn't memorise sentences to use in the writing exam. You shouldn't copy phrases from the question.

(10) The waitress didn't take my order quickly. The waitress didn't remember that I was a vegetarian.

11-15. Look at the following sentences and decided if they are complete or a fragment (incomplete).

(11) When the girl asked if she could go to the bathroom.

Sentence (complete)

Fragment (incomplete)

(12) Employees who work overtime are often rewarded with promotion.

Sentence (complete)

Fragment (incomplete)

(13) Until people understand the importance of recycling.

Sentence (complete)

Fragment (incomplete)

(14) Although more people are studying English today than ever before.

Sentence (complete)

Fragment (incomplete)

(15) Since complex sentences are so important in the IELTS exam, it is important to understand how they work.

Sentence (complete)

Fragment (incomplete)

16-20. Look at the sentences. Do they need commas? If so, add them in the correct place.

(16) People take out loans in order to improve their standard of living

YES

NO

(17) As it helps them to understand their own cultural identity better studying history is vital for children.

YES

NO

(18) The water was freezing so none of us went for a swim.

YES

NO

(19) Although tourism brings benefits to a country it can also lead to serious problems.

YES

NO

(20) I studied really hard for the exam but didn't pass.

YES

NO

21. Read the following essay and underline all of the complex sentences.

Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and believe that change is always negative. Others, however, prefer to take risks and think that change is always a positive thing.

Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

People today have the possibility to transform their lives in countless ways. However, while some people argue that making changes can cause problems in life, I agree with those who feel that making changes results in only favourable outcomes.

On the one hand, some people argue that change always leads to hardships. They claim that when you perform an action repeatedly, you can predict what its outcome will be and, therefore, are unlikely to receive any unwelcome surprises. Moreover, routines can also make you more efficient. For example, if you work in the same office your whole life, you will be able to complete tasks much more quickly because you have built up so much experience over time.

On the other hand, I believe that making changes in life brings more rewards than remaining static. In today's world of constant technological change, people who try to hold onto the past and resist change end up becoming redundant. Even if an employee wanted to work in the same company for their whole career, it would be unlikely that they would be able to do so without seriously upgrading their skills. Furthermore, from the perspective of personal development, if you never altered your lifestyle, you would never give yourself the opportunity to grow as a person. I would argue that even though some choices you make in your life might have negative consequences, it is worth experiencing these downsides in order to gain the possible benefits of change and development.

In conclusion, although people who stick to the same routines experience less difficulties, making changes in your life is the only way to develop as a person. Therefore, on balance, I believe that change of any kind should be viewed as positive.

ANSWERS & COMMENTS

1. yet *You could use "but" to join these sentences, but as there is some surprise, it is better to use "yet".*
2. so *= result*
3. and
4. but *= contrast*
5. for *= reason*
6. nor *Notice how the sentence after the space looks like a question. This is why we need "nor".*
7. or *The two sentence offer two alternatives, so "or" is the best option here.*
8. I can't work late on Friday, nor can I stay late on Monday evening.
9. You shouldn't memorise sentences to use in the writing exam, nor should you copy phrases from the question.
10. The waitress didn't take my order quickly, nor did she remember that I was a vegetarian.
11. Fragment *The clause contains 2 subordinators and only 2 sentences. Remember, we always need 1 sentence more than the number of subordinators. So, 2 subordinators = 3 sentences.*
12. Sentence (complete)
13. Fragment *We need to add a clause to finish the sentence e.g. Until people understand the importance of recycling, **rubbish will continue to fill our streets.***
14. Fragment *1 subordinator + 1 sentence = FRAGMENT!!!!*
*Although more people are studying English today than ever before, the number **taking the IELTS exam has remained the same.***
15. Sentence (complete)
16. NO
17. YES *As it helps them to understand their own cultural identity better, studying history is vital for children.*
18. YES *"none" is the subject of the sentence: The water was freezing, so none of us went for a swim.*
19. YES *Although tourism brings benefits to a country, it can also lead to serious problems.*
20. NO

21. People today have the possibility to transform their lives in countless ways. However, while some people argue that making changes can have cause problems in life, I agree with those feel that making changes results in only favourable outcomes.

On the one hand, some people argue that change always leads to hardships. They claim that when you perform an action repeatedly, you can predict what its outcome will be and, therefore, are unlikely to receive any unwelcome surprises. Moreover, routines can also make you more efficient. For example, if you work in the same office your whole life, you will be able to complete tasks much more quickly because you have built up so much experience over time.

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end up becoming redundant. Even if an employee wanted to work in the same company for their whole career, it would be unlikely that they would be able to do so without seriously upgrading their skills. Furthermore, from the perspective of personal development, if you never altered your lifestyle, you would never give yourself the opportunity to grow as a person. I would argue that even though some choices you make in your life might have some negative consequences, it is worth experiencing these downsides in order to gain the possible benefits of change and development.

In conclusion, although people who stick to the same routines never experience shocks, making changes in your life is the only way to develop as a person. Therefore, on balance, I believe that change of any kind should be viewed as positive.

This is a relative clause and is another type of complex sentence that we will learn later in the course

Wow! Can you see how many complex sentences there are in this essay? I always advise my students to look back at their essays and highlight all of the complex sentences. If you have less than 4 or 5, you probably haven't written enough to receive a high score for Grammatical Range and Accuracy. If you find writing complex sentences difficult now, don't worry! The whole purpose of the grammar videos is to help you improve.