Sentence Patterns
College Readiness Initiative
In this tutorial, you will learn about

Simple Sentences

and

Compound Sentences
Sentences

- Generally, every simple sentence consists of a subject and a verb.
- Another name for a sentence is an independent clause.
- Independent clauses express a complete thought and contain a subject and a verb.
Subject and Verb

- Every complete sentence contains two parts: a **subject** and a **verb**.

Examples:

1. Marshall **runs**.
2. Marshall and Jermaine **run on the beach** every **morning**.
**Subject**

A subject can be a noun or pronoun that is partnered with a verb.

- A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea.
- Pronouns are words that substitute for nouns.

**Verb**

A verb expresses the subject’s action or state of being.
Simple Sentences

- The most basic type of sentence is the **simple sentence**, which contains only one independent clause.
  
  Example:
  
  Burger King has the best hamburgers.

- A simple sentence can be as short as one word: **Stop!**
Simple Sentences

- Usually, the sentence has a subject as well as a verb, and both of them may have complements.
- All of the following are simple sentences because each contains only one independent clause:
  1. Melt!
  2. Ice melts.
  3. The ice melts quickly.

(The most natural sentence structure is the simple sentence; it is the first kind which children learn to speak, and it remains by far the most common sentence in the spoken language.)
Simple Sentence Writing Tips

- Simple sentences can be very effective for grabbing a reader's attention.
- They are also useful for summing up an argument.
- Be aware: too many simple sentences can make your writing seem childish.
- When you do use simple sentences, you should add transitional phrases to connect them to the surrounding sentences.
Simple Sentence Example 1

1. The wave is a wall of water.
2. The surfer is standing.
3. The wave has not crested.
4. Is surfing a dangerous sport?
5. Surfing looks like fun!
Now you write 5 simple sentences about the picture.
Remember:
Each simple sentence expresses a complete thought with a subject and a verb.
Each sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with punctuation (period, question mark, or exclamation point).
Self-Check

1. Does each sentence have a subject? Underline it.
2. Does each sentence have a verb? Circle it.
3. Does each sentence start with a capital letter?
4. Does each sentence end with punctuation?

Good Job!
Simple Sentences Examples & Practices

Below are additional examples and practices for simple sentences.

Simple Sentence-Fireworks.doc

Simple Sentence-Mountain Climbing.doc

Simple Sentence-Rafting.doc
Compound Sentences

Now that you have learned all about simple sentences, it is time to transition to Compound Sentences.
Compound Sentences

A compound sentence consists of two or more independent clauses (or simple sentences) joined by coordinating conjunctions: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so.

Quick Hint: Remember “FANBOYS”
Compound Sentences

Example of a Compound Sentence

- **Simple Sentence**
  Austria is a beautiful country.

- **Simple Sentence**
  Austria has many poor people.

- **Compound Sentence**
  Austria is a beautiful country, *but* it has many poor people.
Transitional Words and Phrases

Transitional words or phrases connect one idea to another. They have different purposes.

- **To Show Chronological Order:** afterward, again, also, as long as, as soon as, at last, before, besides, earlier, equally important, furthermore, meanwhile, moreover, simultaneously, soon, then, therefore, too, until, when

- **To Indicate Spatial Order:** above, below, beyond, elsewhere, farther on, here, near, nearby

- **To Connect Examples or Show Emphasis:** for example, for instance, in fact, of course, specifically, such as

- **To Compare and Contrast:** in comparison, also, likewise, similarly, although, on the contrary, and yet, but, despite, even so, however, yet

- **To Trace Cause and Effect:** because, consequently, otherwise, since, then, therefore

- **To Summarize:** in short, in simpler terms, in summary, that is, to summarize
Compound Sentence Writing Tips

- Not all independent clauses *should* be joined to form a compound sentence.

  Example:
  
  My dogs are white. I think pink is a beautiful color.
  My dogs are white, and I think pink is a beautiful color.

The most logical reason writers decide to combine independent clauses (complete sentences) is to show a close connections between certain items. When *you* are combining independent clauses, you’ll choose the coordinating conjunction, which establishes the connection you want to convey.
Compound Sentence Example 1

Simple Sentences
1. Most of the people are dancing.
2. The dancers are holding each other closely.
3. Three people are sitting together at a table near the dance floor.
4. One of the women is gazing at the dancers.
5. The atmosphere in the nightclub of the 1920s is upbeat.
6. The Great Depression is just a few short years away.
Compound Sentence Example 1

Compound Sentences

1. Most of the people are dancing, and the dancers are holding each other closely.

2. Three people are sitting together at a table near the dance floor, but one of the women is gazing at the dancers.

3. The atmosphere in the nightclub of the 1920s is upbeat, yet the Great Depression is just a few short years away.
Compound Sentence Practice 1

Now you write 5 sentences about the picture.

Punctuation Note: Although one common way to combine independent clauses is by using a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction, it is also possible to use a semicolon with or without a coordinating conjunction.
Self-Check

1. Does each sentence have a subject? Underline it.
2. Does each sentence have a verb? Circle it.
3. Does each sentence start with a capital letter?
4. Does each sentence end with punctuation?
5. Did you join the independent clauses correctly? Draw a box around the word/punctuation used to join them.
6. Did you choose the correct coordinating conjunction to convey your thought? Try to explain the connection between the two clauses to see if you chose correctly.

Good Job!
Compound Sentence Examples & Practices

Below are additional examples and practices for compound sentences.

Compound Sentence-Central Park.doc

Compound Sentence-Revenge of the Babysitter.doc
You have now completed the Simple and Compound Sentence Tutorial

Good Job!