University Writing Center

Grammar/Mechanics Workshop
Sentence Patterns
In this workshop, we will learn about...

 Sentence construction
  Subject and predicate
  Nouns and pronouns

 Four sentence types
  Simple
  Compound
  Complex
  Compound-Complex
Generally, every sentence consists of a **subject** and a **predicate**.

Independent clauses express a complete thought and contain a **subject** and a **predicate**.
What is a subject and a predicate in a sentence?

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

Examples:

1. Marshall **runs**.

2. Marshall and Jermaine **run on the beach every morning**.
A subject can be a *noun* or *pronoun* that is partnered with an *action verb*.

A predicate is a verb that expresses the subject's *action* or *state of being*.

The simple definition of a *noun* is: a *person*, *place*, *thing*, or *abstract idea*.

*Pronouns* are words that substitute for nouns.
Four Basic Kinds of Sentences

Simple
Compound
Complex
Compound-Complex
Simple Sentence

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!
Usually, the sentence has a **subject** as well as a **predicate**, and both of them may have modifiers. All of the following are **simple sentences** because each contains only one 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 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.
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”
Example of a Compound Sentence

Simple

Austria is a beautiful country.

Simple

Austria has many poor people.

Compound

Austria is a beautiful country, but it has many poor people.
Transitional Words or 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
For Review:

An **independent clause** is comprised of a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

I wrote my first novel last year.

A **dependent clause** is comprised of a subject and a verb, but an incomplete thought.

after I wrote my first novel last year
Complex Sentences

A **complex sentence** is a sentence with an independent clause and at least one dependent clause. The dependent clause is introduced by either a subordinate conjunction such as *although*, *while*, or *because*, or a relative pronoun such as *who* or *which*.

**Simple**
My friend invited me to a party. I do not want to go.

**Compound**
My friend invited me to a party, but I do not want to go.

**Complex**
Although my friend invited me to a party, I do not want to go.
A complex sentence is very different from a simple sentence or a compound sentence because it makes clear which ideas are most important.

Examples:
1. Although Tom reads novels, Jack reads comics.
2. When he was younger, Mike had many dogs.
3. Many people enjoyed the movie; however, William did not.
A **Compound-complex sentence** has two independent clauses joined to one or more dependent clauses.

While Tom reads novels, Jack reads comics, but Sam only reads magazines.
Connectors for Compound-complex sentences

Two independent clauses may be joined by coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS) or conjunctive adverbs.

Examples of conjunctive adverbs: *furthermore, meanwhile, therefore, hence, moreover, thus, however, and nevertheless*
Examples of compound-complex sentences

1. The manual will be helpful, and the instructions will be clear when you read them because they are well written.

2. John went to school; however, James remained home because he had a sore throat.

3. Carmelo is watching T.V, but Allen is at practice because he did not play very well.
Quick Quiz

Is it a simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex sentence?
Sentence 1

Because of her disdain for the north, Wilma moved to Miami.

Simple Sentence
Compound Sentence
Complex Sentence
Compound-Complex Sentence

Complex Sentence
Sentence 2

The three male siblings were determined to gain their independence, and each desired a dwelling of his own.

Simple Sentence
Compound Sentence
Complex Sentence
Compound-Complex Sentence
Sentence 3

Because of the string of robberies, Cindy carries a bottle of pepper spray.

Simple Sentence
Compound Sentence
Complex Sentence
Compound-Complex Sentence
Sentence 4

Biffington is from Alabama; Wayne is from Missouri.

Simple Sentence
Compound Sentence
Complex Sentence
Compound-Complex Sentence

Compound Sentence
Jamaal spends all of his money on sneakers.
Sentence 6

“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don’t matter and those that matter don’t mind.”

-Dr. Suess

Simple Sentence
Compound Sentence
Complex Sentence
Compound-Complex Sentence

Compound-complex Sentence
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Monday-Thursday: 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday: 9:00am-12:00pm
*We take appointments; walk-ins are welcome as well.
Questions & Answers