

# SENTENCES TYPES: WHAT THEY ARE AND HOW TO USE THEM

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ENGLISH 9H



# WHAT IS A SENTENCE?

- ▶ **Subject**
- ▶ **Predicate:** verb & modifiers, object(s), etc.
- ▶ Starts with a capital letter, ends with a period
- ▶ Expresses a complete thought

# PHRASES – DO NOT HAVE SUBJECTS AND VERBS

*Combine the noun phrases and verb phrases to make complete sentences.*

## 1. a noun (and its modifiers)

*the City College book fair*

*many culturally diverse students*

*bands*

*my magically delicious Lucky Charms*

*those poisonous red apples on the*

*an interesting*

*table*

*dream*

*the drawer next to the bed*

*talented and helpful*

*tutors*

## 2. a verb (and the words that follow)

*have been playing all night long*

*attend this school*

*has been on my mind all day*

*will be in high demand*

*open*

*were for Snow White and not for you*

*is always in October*

*were eaten by the boy next door*

# WHAT IS A COMPLETE THOUGHT?

- ▶ It can stand alone
- ▶ It doesn't need another clause to explain it
- ▶ (Don't write)
  - ▶ Certain words can make a complete thought less complete:
    - ▶ Examples--*after, although, as, as if, because, before, even if, even though, if, in order to, since, though, unless, until, whatever, when, whenever, whether, and while*
    - ▶ These words can make an independent clause into a dependent clause

# CLAUSES

A **clause** is a **subject / verb combination**. A **phrase does NOT have both**. Clauses can be dependent or independent (more explanation on this later) 😊 First, let's practice distinguishing phrases and clauses.

Phrases	Clauses

*stayed out all night*

*when I go to the store*

*the little kitten sitting in the shade of  
the tree*

*he cried*

*they didn't understand the instructions*

# MAKE SURE YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

- ▶ **Independent clause:** subject and predicate and **can stand alone**
- ▶ **Dependent clause:** subject and predicate and **cannot stand alone**

There are two types of clauses: independent and dependent.

An independent clause, or main clause, is a subject/verb combination that makes a complete sentence. A dependent clause cannot stand alone, and must be attached to an independent clause.

In the following sentence, which one is the main clause?

Example 1: *As soon as I woke up, I made the coffee.*

If you said *I made the coffee*, then you are correct!

# COMPLETE SENTENCES

A complete sentence includes:

1. Subject (noun)
2. Verb (may need a direct object or complement)
3. Complete Thought/Idea

3. Example 1: Marcel understands the importance of attending class regularly.

Example 2: Shu, Tony, and Ana studied together after class.

subject

verb

subject

verb

# SUBJECTS

The subject may be

- ▶ A single noun

College is challenging.

- ▶ A noun phrase

The English Center can help you succeed.

- ▶ A pronoun

It is open Monday through Friday.

- ▶ Two or more nouns, noun phrases or pronouns

Rose, Todd, Humberto, and Jess are all tutors there.

- ▶ A gerund (verb + -ing)

Online tutoring is available on weekends.

- ▶ An infinitive (To + verb)

To err is human.



# SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

- ▶ May be missing something
  - ▶ *Walking down the path that ran along the river.*
- ▶ May be a dependent clause
  - ▶ *Which is the reason why I was always confused*
  - ▶ *Although I always come to class*

# RUN-ON SENTENCE

- ▶ “Too long”
- ▶ Contains more than one independent clause, but lacks proper punctuation
  - ▶ *John read the book he liked it a lot.*
  - ▶ *It's snowing outside let's go play.*

# CAUTION!

Not all complete sentences have a stated subject. The command form (also known as the imperative) has *you* as the implied subject. This sentence structure is not common in academic writing... except perhaps as a “hook” in an introductory paragraph. For example: *Be careful!*

Moreover, certain authors and genres do not adhere to traditional sentence structure and may use phrases and dependent clauses as complete sentences. For example: *Because I said so.*

ONCE A WRITER KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE THREE SENTENCE TYPES (SIMPLE, COMPOUND, AND COMPLEX), IT IS POSSIBLE TO WRITE WITH SENTENCE VARIETY. SENTENCE VARIETY HELPS MAKE YOUR WRITING MORE INTERESTING.

# TYPES OF SENTENCES - COMPOSITION

There are four types of sentences.

## 1. Simple Sentences

*Roxie is a dog.*

## 2. Compound Sentences

*Roxie is a dog, and Rufus is her friend.*

## 3. Complex Sentences

*Rufus loves Roxie because she is adorable.*

## 4. Compound-Complex Sentences

*Rufus loves Roxie because she is adorable, and she defers to him.*

# SIMPLE SENTENCE

- ▶ A simple sentence contains a subject and verb.
- ▶ It expresses a single *complete thought*.
- ▶ A simple sentence is a *single independent clause*.

# SIMPLE SENTENCES

Simple sentences are single, independent clauses.

Subject + verb

***Rufus runs.***

Subject + verb + object or  
complement

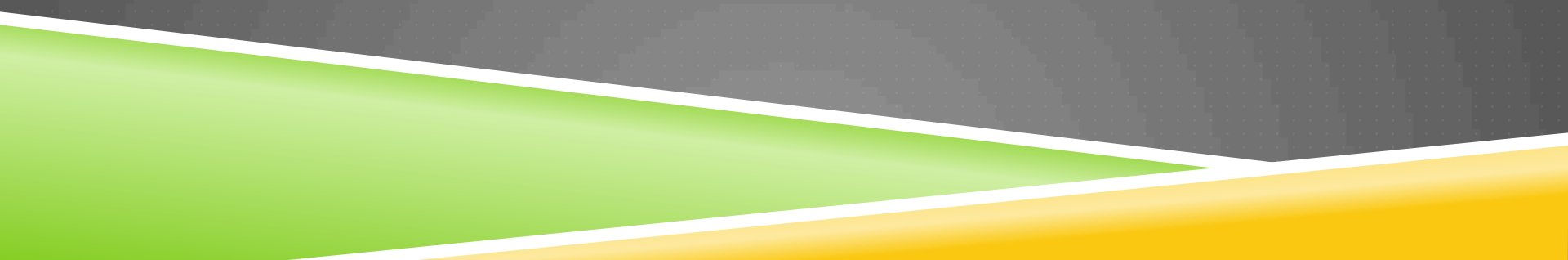
***Roxie is a dog.***

# SAMPLE SIMPLE SENTENCES

- ▶ The cat crept through the dark house.
- ▶ The wary mouse watched from underneath an upturned cereal box.
- ▶ The predatory cat stopped and surveyed his surroundings.
- ▶ The mouse darted for the safety of the nearly invisible hole under the cabinet.



# COMPOUND SENTENCES

- ▶ A compound sentence contains *two (2) independent clauses*.
  - ▶ Conjunctions (*for, and, nor, but, or, and yet, so*) join these independent clauses. (Hint: The conjunctions spell FANBOYS.)
  - ▶ The conjunction used can impact the meaning of the sentence.
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# COMPOUND SENTENCES

Compound sentences consist of two independent clauses that are combined with a coordinating conjunction.

Formula: IC, cc IC.

Independent Clause = IC

Coordinating Conjunction = cc

~~I like ice cream, and Judy likes cookies.~~

IC , cc IC.

**What are the coordinating conjunctions?**

# COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

**F** **or** = because      *I like ice cream, for it is delicious.*

**A** **nd** = more information      *I like ice cream, and Judy likes cookies.*

**N** **or** = two negative options      *Neither ice cream nor cookies are good for your health.*

**B**  
**O** **ut** = contrast      *I like ice cream, but I don't like cake.*

**Y** **r** = alternative      *I could eat ice cream, or I could eat carrots.*

**S**  
**e** **t** = contrast      *I could eat carrots, yet I wouldn't feel happy.*

**o** = result/consequence      *I will eat ice cream, so I can feel happy.*

# SAMPLE COMPOUND SENTENCES

- ▶ The cat was unsuccessful in his attempt to catch the mouse, **and** the mouse was equally as unlucky in his attempt to get the cheese.
- ▶ The dog had watched all of this, **but** he had refused to become involved.
- ▶ The mouse could wait until dark, **or** he could risk a daylight raid on the pantry.
- ▶ The cat usually slept during the day, **yet** curiosity held him at the corner of the kitchen.

# COMPLEX SENTENCES

- ▶ A complex sentence is an *independent clause* joined by one or more *dependent clauses*.
- ▶ A *subordinating conjunction* begins the dependent clauses.
- ▶ A dependent clause that begins a sentence must be followed by comma.
- ▶ A dependent clause has a subject and a verb, but it does not make sense on its own.

# SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

After how Until

Although if Unless

As in as much as as if

in order that When as long as

At least Whenever as much as

now that whereas soon

wherever as though Since

While because so that

Before even if That

even though though

# SAMPLE COMPLEX SENTENCES

- ▶ After he gave it some thought, the mouse decided to wait until later for his trek.
- ▶ The cat fell asleep on the warm kitchen because he was deprived of sleep the night before.
- ▶ When the mouse heard the soft snoring of his sleeping nemesis, he scurried to the pantry and grabbed enough food for a week.
- ▶ The dedicated, feline sleuth keeps his nightly vigil even though the foresighted mouse will not be venturing out this week.

# COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES

- ▶ A compound-complex sentence is a sentence that has at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.
- ▶ The same subordinating conjunctions are used to introduce the dependent clauses.
- ▶ The same coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS) are used for joining the independent clauses.



# SAMPLE COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES.

- ▶ After the two adversaries had spent years playing this “cat and mouse” game, they were joined by their children, and the fun continued.
- ▶ Even though it seems the two were bent on the other’s destruction, the cat and mouse were rather fond of one another, and neither wanted the other’s defeat.
- ▶ This game was begun thousands of years ago, and it will continue far into the future as other cats and mice revel in hide-and-seek.

# Test Yourself – Simple, Compound, Complex, or Compound-Complex?

1. The teacher walked into the classroom, greeted the students, and took attendance.
  2. Juan played football while Jane went shopping.
  3. Juan played football, yet Jim went shopping.
  4. Although Mexico has a better team, they lost the tournament, and their more aggressive style did not pay off.
  5. The island was filled with many trails winding through the thick underbrush, a small lake, and dangerous wild animals.
  6. Naoki passed the test because he studied hard, but Stacy did not understand the material.
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