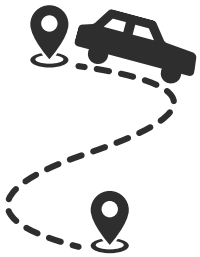




Types of Sentence Structures

§ 1.2



Cars are like Sentences.

Both are vehicles. Cars move people and objects from one point to another, and sentences move complete thoughts from one person to another. In this lesson, we'll look at the **three** basic sentence structures we use to convey our ideas.

Just like cars need certain parts to run, all sentences also need certain parts work as well. Here are the **5 necessary parts a sentence must have**:

1. Subject
 - Serves as the center of your sentence
 - Includes a noun or pronoun and all the words that describe it
2. Predicate
 - What your subject is doing
 - Includes a verb and all the words that describe it
3. Includes a complete thought
4. Punctuation Mark at the End
5. Capital Letter at the Start

^ Any part of a sentence that can have the first three of these things is called an **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE (IC)**, any part that has only the first two is called a **DEPENDENT CLAUSE (DC)**. DCs also begin with a Subordinating Conjunction.

3 Basic Types of Sentence Structures



1) Simple Sentence

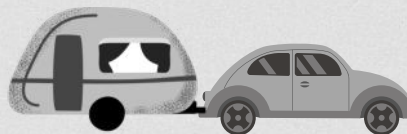
IC

- One complete thought expressed

Lightning McQueen smiled at his fans.

- Can have a compound subject or predicate and still be considered simple

Lightning McQueen smiled and called out to his fans.



2) Compound Sentence

IC + IC

- At least 2 complete thoughts expressed, connected by a comma and a coordinating (FANBOYS) conjunction (I like to call this the Trailer Hitch)

Lightning McQueen smiled at his fans, so the fans cheered even louder!

- A semi-colon can also serve as the trailer hitch for the two ideas.

Lightning McQueen smiled at his fans; the fans cheered even louder!



3) Complex Sentence

IC + DC or DC + IC

- One complete thought and at least one incomplete thought expressed.

As he took the lead in the race, Lightning McQueen smiled at his fans in the stands.

- You usually don't need a comma if you end with the dependent clause.

Lightning McQueen smiled and called out to his fans in the stands as he took the lead.