



Sentences and Clauses




A Clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb.

- An Independent Clause expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence.

ex. I am late for school.

- A Dependent Clause does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone as a sentence.

ex. Because I overslept.



Most dependent clauses are introduced by words like *although*, *before*, *because*, *so that*, *when*, *while*, and *that*.

Ex. before she went to bed


A dependent clause can be joined to an independent clause to add to the complete thought that the independent clause expresses.


Ex. Kate noted the day's events in her journal before she went to bed.

Dependent clauses are also known as subordinate clauses. These clauses cannot stand alone and are dependent on main clause.

Types of Sentences

- A simple sentence has one independent clause and zero dependent clauses.
- Example: I was late for school.

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- A Compound Sentence has two or more independent clauses and zero dependent clauses.
 - Example: I was late for school, and I received detention.
 - A compound sentence **must** be joined properly. There are three ways to join a compound sentence:
 1. comma conjunction
 2. semicolon
 3. semicolon conjunctive adverb comma

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- A Complex Sentence contains one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.
 - Example: I was late for school because I overslept.
 - OR: Because I overslept, I was late for school.
 - Punctuation – only put a comma if the dependent clause is at the beginning of the sentence.




Relative Pronouns:

who, whom, whose, which, and that

Subordinating Conjunctions:

After, although, as, because, before, if,
since, though, unless, until, when, where,
while


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- A compound sentence – comma conjunction or semicolon
 - A complex sentence – a dependent clause or one of the words from our list
 - Anything else is simple.
 - Ex. I like English, and I hate math.
 - Ex. I like English because it is awesome.
 - Ex. I like English and hate math.



Compound –

Complex –

Simple -

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- A compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clause.
 - Example: I was late for school, and I got detention because I overslept.
 - Compound-complex sentences follow the punctuation rules of compound sentences and complex sentences.



Sentence Examples:

Simple Sentence:

Compound Sentence:

Complex Sentence:

Compound-Complex Sentence:

Fragment, Run-on, or Sentence

- A Fragment is a part of a sentence that is written as if it were a complete sentence.
- Example: **Because I overslept.**
The house on the corner.
Running around the block.

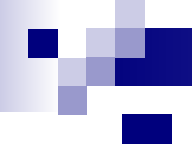


■ A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought.

■ Example: I was late for school.

I hate detention.

I will be early tomorrow.



■ A Run-on Sentence consists of two or more sentences written as though they were a single sentence.

■ Example: I was late, I overslept.

The dog was running around
the house he was chasing the
cat.