

# **SIMPLE SENTENCE**

A sentence that has  
one independent clause.

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# **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE**

A group of words that  
(1) makes a complete sentence  
(2) has a subject and a verb

# THE SUBJECT OF A SENTENCE

The subject is the

person

place

thing

quality

OR

idea



Nouns

that the sentence is about.

Examples:

John went for a walk. (Person)

Towns are quiet after snowfalls. (Place)

Eggs rolled off the counter. (Things)

Silence is golden. (Quality)

Peace is at hand. (Idea)

# VERB

A verb is a word that shows the  
action  
or  
state of being  
of the subject of the sentence.

## Examples:

Sally sneezed. (Physical action)

John thinks. (Mental action)

Jesse is my friend. (State of being)

# VERB-SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Step 1: Look for the action or state-of-being word to find the verb.

Example: Kevin reported the theft.

Step 2: Ask yourself "Who or what (verb)? to find the subject.

Example: Paula is an astronaut.

# HELPING VERBS

am  
are

is

can  
could

may  
might  
must

do  
does  
did

shall  
should

has  
have  
had

was  
were

be  
being  
been

will  
would

# STEPS FOR SENTENCE WRITING

Step 1: Pick a formula

Step 2: Explore Words to Fit  
the Formula

Step 3: Note the Words

Step 4: Search and Check

Search:

- Look for the action or state-of-being word(s) to find the verb(s).
- Ask the "Who or What Question" to find the subject(s).

Check:

- Capital letter
- End punctuation
- Makes sense

# COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses.

## Examples:

The students finished class, and they went to lunch.

Kevin did not want to hurt Kathy's feelings, so he said nothing about her mistake.

I want to see my sister soon, for she has been in Switzerland for two years.

# COMPARING COMPOUND SENTENCES TO SIMPLE SENTENCES WITH COMPOUND SUBJECTS AND COMPOUND VERBS

## Simple Sentence:

The men and women met at the station and went to dinner.

## Compound Sentence:

The men met at the station, and the women went to dinner.

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## Simple Sentence:

The ducks and geese squawked and fluttered their wings.

## Compound Sentence:

The ducks squawked, and the geese fluttered their wings.

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## Simple Sentence:

Harry and Joe ate ice cream and drank pop.

## Compound Sentence:

Harry ate ice cream, and Joe drank pop.



# COORDINATING CONJUNCTION

A word that is used with a comma to join two independent clauses.

, for	, but
, and	, or
, nor	, yet
	, so

## Examples:

Baseball is my favorite sport to watch, **but** football is my favorite sport to play.

The children ran all the way to school, **yet** they were late anyway.

You will have to finish the project, **or** your group will get a failing grade.

Hanni was not at the game, **nor** was she at the party.

# SEMICOLONS

Semicolons (;) can also be used to join the two independent clauses of a compound sentence.

Examples:

Susan loves to swim; her brother likes to dive.

Jason was highly respected; he was always such a responsible person.

The meeting was over; it was already midnight.

# COMPLEX SENTENCE

A complex sentence has one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

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## DEPENDENT CLAUSE

A dependent clause is a group of words with a subject and verb that cannot stand alone.

### Examples:

I like Sally because she is funny.

Kathy will be late for dinner since the meeting is still in progress.

The game will end when one team scores.

# SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Subordinating conjunctions are words that show the relationship of the dependent clause to the independent clause.

Some words that can be used as subordinating conjunctions are:

after

even if

since

although

even though

so that

as

if

than

as if

in order that

though

as long as

just as

unless

as soon as

like

until

as though

once

when

because

provided

whenever

before

rather than

while

# SEQUENCING COMPLEX SENTENCES

Dependent Clause First  
(comma needed)

When I get to Phoenix, you will be sleeping.

After the players practiced, they went out for a pizza.

Until the storm is over, we will not know about the damage.

# SEQUENCING COMPLEX SENTENCES

Independent Clause First  
(comma not needed)

You will be sleeping when I get to  
Phoenix.

The players went out for a pizza  
after they practiced.

We will not know about the  
damage until the storm is over.

# COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

A compound-complex sentence has two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.

## Examples:

When you are ready, I will call the store, and we can talk to Tim.

Before the trick-or-treaters came, Megan made candied apples; they were delicious.

# SEQUENCING COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES

## Dependent Clause First

After the party was over, Jean had a headache, so Paul cleaned up the house.

When Jennifer feels sad, she calls Chris; he cheers her up.



# SEQUENCING COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES

## Dependent Clause Second

Jean had a headache after the party was over, so Paul cleaned up the house.

Chad hates to sleep while his parents are awake, for he might miss something.

Jennifer calls Chris whenever she feels sad; he cheers her up.

The sky was gray when the volcano erupted; ash was falling everywhere.

# SEQUENCING COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES

## Dependent Clause Third

Jean had a headache, so Paul cleaned up the house after the party over.

The boss made Pat a good offer, and she accepted as long as he gave her a travel allowance.

The doctors were busy with serious cases; the slightly wounded soldier quietly waited while they worked.

Todd gave an excellent report; his instructor thanked him after the rest of the class had left the room.