

Sentence Types

English Language Learner

CLAUSES

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

- Subject + Verb
- Can form a complete sentence on its own
- Used to construct a variety of sentence types

DEPENDENT CLAUSE

- Subject + verb
- Formed with a subordinator
- Requires an independent clause to create a complete sentence
- Cannot stand alone; incomplete thought
- Used to construct a variety of sentence types

SENTENCE TYPES

1. Simple sentence
2. Compound sentence
3. Complex sentence
4. Compound-complex sentence

SIMPLE SENTENCE

- A simple sentence has just one independent clause.
- May have an object
- NO dependent clause
- They may have additional phrase such as prepositional phrases

EXAMPLES

She walks.

The doctor will examine the patient.

The children went to the food court.

Mary, Lily, and Emma [compound subject] *went to the park and played* [compound verb] *in the playground.*

COMPOUND SENTENCE

- A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses.
- NO dependent clauses
- Independent clauses can be joined three ways.
 1. Coordinator (Coordinating Conjunction)
 2. Conjunctive Adverb
 3. Semicolon

Coordinator	Conjunctive Adverb	Semicolon
<i>for, and, nor, but, or, so</i>	<i>therefore, however, hence, etc.</i>	;
Add a comma in front of the coordinator.	Put a semicolon before and a comma after the conjunctive adverb.	Only use when the two independent clauses are closely related.

EXAMPLES

I went home, so I could rest before the trip.

The singer sang beautifully; therefore, the audience applauded loudly.

Mary completed her essay; her instructor provided feedback.



COMPLEX SENTENCE

- A complex sentence has one independent clause and one (or more) **dependent clause(s)**.
- The most important idea is generally positioned in the independent clause while the lesser important idea is located in the dependent clause.
- The general punctuation rule is to place a comma after the dependent clause if it is in the initial sentence position. There are exceptions.
- Subordinators introduce dependent clauses.
- There are many subordinators. The table provides some of the common subordinators.

Common Subordinators	<i>although, because, which, that, where, when, whose, who, so that, if, even if, as, since, whether, while, unless, until</i>
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- **There are three kinds of dependent clauses:**
 1. **Adverb Clause** (functions like an adverb)
 2. **Adjective Clause** (describes a noun or pronoun)
 3. **Noun Clause** (functions like a noun)

Adverb Clause	<i>Although the weather was terrible, they went camping.</i>
Adjective Clause	<i>The family camped near the beach, which was quite sandy.</i>
*comma exceptions	<i>The employee who worked from home transitioned back to the office.</i>
Noun Clause	<i>The employer knows what the response will be.</i>



COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

- A compound-complex sentence has at least three clauses.
- Two of the three clauses must be independent and one must be **dependent**.
- It is an integration of a compound sentence and a complex sentence.
- It uses a variety of coordinators and subordinators.

EXAMPLES

Because I did not study, I did not pass the test; therefore, I need to do another one.

I went home as it was getting late, but I had to wait on the porch until my mother got home.

Using a Variety of Sentence Types

- Writers should use a variety of short and long sentences.
- Too many of the same type of sentences makes your writing bland.
- A combination of different lengths makes your writing more effective.
- Writers are encouraged to use a variety of sentence openers.

SOURCES

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