

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

To make your writing more interesting and give it a distinct voice, you should vary your sentences in terms of length and structure. you can make some of your sentences short and others long . In other words, you will want to use a variety of sentence structures in your writing . Therefore , Sentence Structure is important because it provides you with the framework for the clear written expression of your ideas in english language.

Sentence Structure Basics:

- A sentence is a complete set of words that conveys meaning.
- A sentence is composed of one or more clauses.
- A clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb. Some clauses are independent, and others are dependent. For a sentence to be complete, it must contain at least one independent clause.

1. INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT CLAUSES

There are two types of clauses: independent clauses and dependent clauses. A sentence contains at least one independent clause and may contain one or more dependent clauses:

◦ **An independent clause** expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence. **EX:** We went to the beach.

◦ **A dependent clause** is not a complete sentence and cannot stand by itself. It must be connected to an independent clause. **EX:** When we were in Toronto, we went to the beach.

You can distinguish a dependent clause by identifying the subordinating conjunction. A subordinating conjunction creates a dependent clause that relies on the rest of the sentence for meaning. The following list provides some examples of subordinating conjunctions: after, as, before, if, though, while, unless, although, because, even, though, since, when, until, whereas,...etc.

Independent clause: When I go to the movies, **I usually buy popcorn.**

Dependent clause: **When I go to the movies**, I usually buy popcorn.

Independent clause: **I don't like the ocean** because sharks scare me.

Dependent clause: I don't like the ocean **because sharks scare me.**

2. SENTENCE TYPES

Sentences are divided into four categories: simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences, and compound-complex sentences.

° **The simple sentence** is composed of one independent clause. **Ex:** Johnny rode his bike to school.

° **The compound sentence** is composed of two or more independent clauses but **no dependent clauses**. A coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) often links the two independent clauses and is preceded by a comma. **Ex:**

She wanted to go on vacation , **so** she saved up her money.

Tim loves to read , **and** he also loves to hike.

° **The complex sentence** is composed of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. A complex sentence will include at least one subordinating conjunction. **Ex:**

She went to class **even though** she was sick.

As John was arriving to work, he realized he forgot his lunch.

° **The compound-complex sentence** combines complex sentence and compound sentence forms. A compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses. **Ex:**

I try to eat healthy food, **but because** fast food is so convenient, I cannot maintain a healthy diet.

When we arrive, James will make the popcorn, and Sarah will start the movie.

Activity: Identify the sentence type. Underline independent clauses once(-) and dependent clauses twice(=).

1. Harry Potter was rejected from many publishers before J.K. Rowling found success.

Sentence type: _____

2. Even though the patients showed various symptoms, the clinical study found that lack of sleep contributes to the inability to focus, irritability, and poorer health.

Sentence type: _____

3. More and more students are relying on online databases to find sources.

Sentence type: _____

4. The business analysts proposed higher numbers for next quarter, and they expect to exceed those numbers the following quarter.

Sentence type: _____

5. Homeless teens face intense obstacles, but when it comes to schooling, they do have the chance to receive an education if they enroll in a special program.

Sentence type: _____