Sentence Types: Lesson 1

There are four different sentence types:

1. Simple Sentences 3. Complex Sentences

2. Compound Sentences 4. Compound Complex Sentences

All four sentence types are built with clauses.

A clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb. There are two kinds of clauses:

independent clauses

dependent clauses

**1. Simple Sentences**

A simple sentence contains a single independent clause.

Read the following groups of words and decide if the group is a clause (C) or not (X)

1. Before the sun rose.

2. After the flood.

3. Jorge somersaulted.

4. Toward the house.

5. Esmeralda shouted.

Some of the above examples are clauses, but they do not express a complete though. Which ones fall into this category?

Clauses that do not express a complete thought are *dependent clauses.* You will never find a dependent clause in a simple sentence. Simple sentences have only one independent clause.

Look at the following examples of simple sentences. Identify the subject, verb, and prepositional phrases of each.

Remember: A subject is *who* or *what* is performing the action or the sentence is about. The verb is the action, or a helping verb. Prepositional phrases consist of a preposition and all the words between the preposition and the noun.

The lecture was over.

The Colorado River travels through many western states.

In the fall, the Blue Ridge Mountains are spectacular.

The ship is owned by Ridder Company.

Write five simple sentences on the lines below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

**2. Compound Sentences**

A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses. What is an independent clause?

Look at the following sentences and analyze how they are different. Identify subjects, verbs, and direct objects. Remember: direct objects receive an action performed by the subject.

1. Kim and Paul peel and boil the potatoes.

2. Kim peels the potatoes, and Paul boils them.

Which one is compound? Which one is simple?

There are three different ways to punctuate compound sentences:

**1. Two independent clauses are joined by a comma (,) and one of the seven coordinating conjunctions: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.***

What kinds of relationships do these words show?

a. *and* makes the independent clauses equal in importance; both have the same value.

b. *but* and *yet* show contrast between two independent clauses: the two clauses show difference, or an unexpected or unwanted outcome.

c. *or* indicates a choice between the two clauses; *nor* indicates a negative choice: not either. When using *nor*, the subject and the verb of the second clause must be reversed.

d. *for* and *so* show cause and effect relationships. *for* can be used in the place of *because*; however, few people use this part of speech in contemporary writing.

Combine the each pair of simple sentences into a compound sentence using six of the seven coordinating conjunctions.

1. The students looked forward to the school dance. The teachers dreaded it.

2. The sales of homes have slowed dramatically. Interest rates are very high.

3. Jeanne will go to medical school. She will drop out altogether.

4. William studied the violin for ten years. He is also interested in painting.

5. The transmission fell out of the car. The Smiths decided to junk it.

6. It was an interesting play. It was disconcerting to hear so much vulgar language.

**2. The second way to punctuate compound sentences is to use a semicolon (;) to separate two closely related independent clauses.**

Look at the following example:

Terry hurried home; his dog was missing.

Choose one of the sentences from the above 1-6, and rewrite it using only a semicolon below.

**3. The third way to punctuate compound sentences is to join them with a semicolon (;) and a conjunctive adverb. The following list contains some common conjunctive adverbs.**

also consequently currently finally hence

however indeed likewise moreover nevertheless

next overall primarily rather similarly

therefore thus for example in addition after all

Complete the following compound sentences with a second independent clause.

1. Aunt Janice did a handstand; however,

2. I refuse to wear those red cowboy boots again; furthermore,

3. Anna always says whatever is on her mind; consequently,

Choose two more conjunctive adverbs from the list and create your own compound sentences using this method.

1

2.

Classify each of the following sentences as simple or compound. Identify all subjects and verbs.

\_\_1. The governor decided to stand for reelection, for he had an unfinished agenda.

\_\_2. Margarita suddenly became very sick.

\_\_3. Snow, ice, and rain are a pilot’s worst enemies; clear skies are her best friends.

\_\_4. People should eat more dairy products: cheese, yogurt, and butter.

\_\_5. Tutoring will help all students, but few will make an appointment.

Write three sets of closely related simple sentences (six total). Then, rewrite them into compound sentences using each of the three methods.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

1.

2.

3.

**3. Complex Sentences**

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

They wanted to manage a restaurant.

Although they had no cooking skills.

Which of these is a dependent clause?

If these clauses are combined, they create a complex sentence.

They wanted to manage a restaurant although they had no cooking skills.

Although they had no cooking skills, they wanted to manage a restaurant.

Take note of the punctuation pattern.

The following are **subordinating conjunction**s. When these are combined with a clause that has a subject and a verb, they create dependent clauses.

after if what although since when

as whenever because before unless

whether until while wherever even though

Choose nine of these subordinating conjunctions and create dependent clauses on the lines below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

What do you need to add to these dependent clauses to form a complex sentence? Choose three of your clauses and complete them to form a complex sentence. Be aware of punctuation.

**Relative Pronouns**can also be used to form dependent clauses. The following is a list of relative pronouns:

that whoever

which whom

whichever whomever

who whose

Choose four of these relative pronouns and use them to form dependent clauses. Remember, a clause must have a subject and a verb. The relative pronoun may act as the subject.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Choose two of the above dependent clauses and complete them to form complex sentences.

Identify the subordinate word, the subject, and the verb in the following dependent clauses.

1. Because the teacher expected the student to win
2. Whenever the chimes struck the eleventh hour
3. That I brought home from Mexico
4. Before the great debate began
5. Which I will never read again.

Combine each pair of sentences by making one of the clauses dependent. The idea that you want to emphasize should remain independent.

1. The motorboat flipped over. It had been speeding.
2. Many people visit zoos every year. They must be animal lovers.
3. Geometry is difficult to learn. My time was well spent.
4. The applicant stood up proudly. The interview was over.

Identify the dependent clauses and independent clauses in the following sentences. Place parenthesis around the dependent clause and underline the independent clause.

1. The children went swimming even though the water was very cold.
2. Because most parents want only the best for their children, consumption of fast food has fallen.
3. It started to snow while the sun was coming up.
4. The police confirmed that he was the subject.
5. Photography, even though it is a worthwhile hobby, is expensive.
6. If the rain stops, we will have a picnic.

Identify the following sentences by type: simple, compound, complex.

1. Sahin goes surfing whenever he can.
2. Helenka thought that she had succeeded.
3. The high school graduates danced all night.
4. Veterinarian bills can be expensive; unfortunately, they are not covered by health insurance.
5. Supervisors should be the best support for their workers, but it doesn’t always work that way.
6. Before guests entered the dining room, the settings were in place.
7. Sunshine makes a day great.
8. Our inventories are very low; our supplier is on strike.