

Different types of sentences

There are three different types of sentence...

- 1) The **SIMPLE** sentence
- 2) The **COMPOUND** sentence
- 3) The **COMPLEX** sentence

Need to know... A clause is a group of words that contain a **verb** and a **subject**.

There are two types of clauses...

1...Main/Independent clause

2...Subordinate clause

THE SIMPLE SENTENCE

-A simple sentence has a **SUBJECT** and a **VERB**. Sometimes, there will be an **OBJECT**, but there doesn't have to be. There are no conjunctions in a simple sentence.

The **subject** is usually the thing or person who is carrying out an action.

The **verb** is the action being carried out.

The **object** is the thing or person that is involved in an action, but does not carry it out.

For example...

- **Tiger ate.** (Subject and Verb)
- **Tiger ate meat.** (Subject, Verb and Object)
- The fierce **tiger** menacingly **ate** the bloody **meat**. (Subject, Verb, Object + adjectives and adverbs)

Tip: these sentences are also known as main or independent clauses because they make sense on their own. Remember, it must also begin with a capital and end with a full stop!

THE COMPOUND SENTENCE

-A compound sentence is **two or more MAIN clauses** joined together with a conjunction.

-Each of the clauses could make sense on their own but a **conjunction links the ideas** and helps writing to **flow**.

-A compound sentence will use any of these conjunctions...

And, But, Or, Yet, So, Because, If, When

For example...

- I love bananas. I don't like grapes.
I love bananas **but** I don't like grapes.
- The highwayman came to his beloved. He loved her very much.
The highwayman came to his beloved **because** he loved her very much.
- The young athlete dreamed of one day becoming a professional footballer. He practised with enthusiasm every day.
The young athlete dreamed of one day becoming a professional footballer **so** he practised with enthusiasm every day.

THE COMPLEX SENTENCE

-These are formed when you join a **main clause** and a **subordinate clause** together.

Main clause – has a subject and a verb and makes sense on its own.

Subordinate clause – does not make sense on its own.

-There are three types of complex sentence

- 1) **The embedded subordinate clause.** This is when the subordinate clause sits in the middle of the sentence, using commas to separate it from the main clause.

For example...

David, **who** had been practicing, sang beautifully.

The decrepit haunted house, **which** had sat empty for over a century, was a source of great curiosity to the children.

Wondering through the woods, feeling scared and alone, Katy was close to tears.

Although I was terrified, **which** I felt was understandable, I held the snake tightly.

Tip: try reading just the pink part-you will find it makes sense without the blue part-these are the main clauses.

If you read the blue part without the pink part, they will make no sense- these are the subordinate clauses.

2) The complex sentence which starts with the subordinate clause.

Although the little girl was uncomfortably full, she continued eating her huge bowl of delicious ice cream!

Because I had practiced until I nearly dropped, I performed brilliantly in the concert.

Even though I didn't really like the look of her, I made the effort to chat.

Provided that the class behaves well, we will get to go on a class trip!

Tip: for this type of sentence, we need a comma after the subordinate clause.

Now we can reshuffle the order of the words in these sentences to make the third type of complex sentence...

3) The complex sentence which has the subordinate clause at the end.

The little girl continued eating her huge bowl of delicious ice cream although she was uncomfortably full.

I performed brilliantly in the concert because I had practiced until I nearly dropped.

I made the effort to chat even though I didn't really like the look of her.

The class will get to go on a class trip provided that we behave well.

Tip: notice how when the subordinate clause is at the end there is usually no comma to separate the clauses.

