

Types of Sentences based on the Structure

We can classify the sentences based on different parameters. One such classification is "**Types of sentences based on structure.**"

There are 4 types of sentence structures.

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

It's imperative that you understand the following terms before delving into the sentence structure topic. In the context of this presentation, it's presumed that you do understand these terms. As additional reference the following terms have also been explained in brief in the end of this presentation in the footnote section with reference links.

1. Sentence
 2. Subject and Predicate
 3. Clause
 4. Noun Clause
 5. Independent Clause and Dependent Clause
 6. Adverb Clause
 7. Relative Clause AKA Adjective Clause
 8. Subordinating Conjunctions
 9. Coordinating Conjunction
 10. Correlative Conjunctions
 11. Conjunctive Adverbs
 12. Relative Pronoun
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What is a Simple sentence?

A simple sentence is a sentence consisting of one **independent clause** only. There will be no dependent clause. It has a subject and predicate and can express a complete thought. It starts with a capital letter and ends with a period.

Examples of Simple sentence:

The baby sleeps.

After lunch, my friend and I went to watch a movie.

What is a complex sentence?

A Complex sentence is a sentence which contains one or more dependent clauses and one independent clause. The dependent clause is connected to the main clause (i.e., independent clause) with a subordinate conjunction or relative pronoun. The dependent clause may be an adjective clause, an adverb clause or a noun clause.

Examples of a Complex sentence:

When I went to my friend's house, he was sleeping.

"When I went to my friend's house" is a dependent clause and *"he was sleeping."* is an independent clause. The dependent clause is an adverbial clause of time.

My sister, who is a computer engineer, is working in IBM.

"who is a computer engineer" is a dependent clause (it is an adjective clause.) *"My sister is working in IBM"* is an independent clause.

Punctuation: When the sentence starts with the dependent clause, a comma separates the dependent clause from the main clause. But if the main clause begins the sentence, no comma is required.

He did not go to the office as he was not feeling well.

"He did not go to the office" is the main clause. *"as he was not feeling well"* is the dependent clause. As the independent clause starts the sentence, no comma is used.

What is a Compound sentence?

A compound sentence is a sentence consisting of two independent clauses. Each of these independent clauses is capable of standing as a sentence alone. These clauses are joined using a coordinating conjunction, correlative conjunction, a semicolon, or a conjunctive adverb.

Examples of a Compound sentence:

*My baby was sleeping, **so** I resumed my embroidery work. (Joined by one of the coordinating conjunction, "so".)*

***Not only** did he write poems, **but also** he could sing. (The independent clauses are joined using correlative conjunction.)*

Jane opened the packets; Mary arranged them in the showcase (The independent clauses are joined with a semicolon.)

*She liked him; **however**, she did not marry him. (A conjunctive adverb, **however**, has been used to join the two independent clauses.)*

What is a Compound-Complex sentence?

A Compound-complex sentence is a sentence consisting of two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.

Examples of a Compound-Complex sentence:

Every day I go for a morning walk before the sun rises, but today I am late

"*Every day I go for morning walk*" and "*today I am late*" are independent clauses. "*before the sun rises*" is a dependent clause.

When I went for a morning walk today, I met my friend, and both of us together walked for 20 minutes.

"*When I went for a morning walk today*" is a dependent clause, and "*I met my friend*" and "*both of us together walked for 20 minutes.*" are independent clauses.

Her siblings were happy in their cocooned world and did not bother about their sister who had sacrificed so much for them.

"*Her siblings were happy in their cocooned world*" and "*(they) did not bother about their sister*" are independent clauses. "*who had sacrificed so much for them*" is a dependent clause.

Types of Sentences Presentation - Footnote:

It's important to understand the following terms before learning sentence structures or [types of sentences](#) (in case you wish to look at examples of each of the terms, you can click on the links below).

1. **Sentence** - A set of semantically arranged words that has a subject and predicate, and can express a complete idea.
2. **Subject and Predicate**
3. **Subject** - That part of the sentence or clause that indicates who or what performs the action
4. **Predicate** - That part of the sentence or clause containing a finite verb and informing something about the subject.
5. **Clause** - A set of semantically arranged words that has a subject and predicate, but cannot express a complete idea.
6. **Noun Clause** - A dependent clause that acts as a noun in a sentence.
7. **Independent Clause and Dependent Clause**
8. **Independent Clause** - A clause that can express a complete idea and can stand its own as a sentence.
9. **Dependent Clause** - A clause that cannot express a complete idea and has to depend on the main clause.
10. **Adverb Clause of Time** - A dependent clause, usually introduced by time adverbs, shows when something happens.
11. **Relative Clause** AKA **Adjective Clause** - A dependent clause that acts as an adjective.
12. **Subordinating Conjunctions** - A word or phrase that joins a dependent clause to an independent clause.
13. **Coordinating Conjunction** - A conjunction that links words, phrases, or clauses of equal rank.
14. **Correlative Conjunctions** - Conjunction that appears in pairs, used to link sentence elements of equal rank.
15. **Conjunctive Adverbs** - Adverbs used to link and modify two independent clauses.
16. **Relative Pronouns** - A type of pronoun which introduces a relative clause (aka adjective clause) in a sentence.

Reference English Grammar Websites:

1. <https://typesofsentences.com>
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