

Topic: Sentences

A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. A sentence must have a subject and a verb, but it may or may not have an object.

There are many different types of sentences. The three main types of sentences are **simple**, **compound**, and **complex**.

Simple Sentences

A simple sentence is the most basic sentence that we have in English. It has just **one independent clause**, which means only one subject and one predicate. A simple sentence will have a subject and a verb.

A simple sentence can be very short, but some are long too. Here are some examples of simple sentences:

1. I am a doctor.

(“I” is the subject and “am” is the verb.)

2. She ate dinner with her brother and sister.

(“she” is the subject and “ate” is the verb.)

3. Dad cooked dinner.

(“Dad” is the subject, “cooked” is the verb, and “Dinner” is the object.)

4. Maggie is reading a book.

(“Maggie” is the subject, “is reading” is the verb, and “a book” is the object.)

5. **They** prepared cotton candy in an old-fashioned machine.

(“**They**” is the subject, “prepared” is the verb, “cotton candy” is the object, “in an old-fashioned” is a modifier, and “machine” is another object in the sentence.)

All simple sentences have ONE independent clause. So, you can see that all of the clauses above work as sentences. In fact, an independent clause itself is a simple sentence!

Compound Sentences

A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses, and is linked by a coordinating conjunction.

Here are examples of two independent clauses joined together in one sentence by a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

1. The beach is a lot of fun, **yet** the mountains are better.
2. A group of us went to the movies, **and** we agreed it was enjoyable.

Here are examples of two independent clauses joined together in one sentence by a semi-colon.

1. I went to the Department of Motor vehicle today; I took the written driving test.
2. Monica bought the drinks; Kim bought the main dish.

Complex Sentences

A complex sentence has a dependent clause and an independent clause. When an independent and a dependent clause join to form a complex sentence, they can go in either order.

Here are two examples where the **dependent clause** comes first:

1. **“Because my coffee was too cold,** I heated it in the microwave”.
2. **When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible,** he is almost certainly right.

Here are three examples where the **independent clause** comes first:

1. **“I heated my coffee in the microwave** because it was too cold.
2. **Stay in the bath** until the phone rings.
3. **I know a guy** who plays the guitar in a rock band.