

I'm not a robot

























Are you someone wanting to know more about compound-complex, simple, compound, and complex sentences? Yes, we know that they are types of sentences, but individually have other characteristics too. Keep reading to know more about these types of sentences! Simple Sentence-A simple sentence is a group of words that has a subject, a verb, and delivers a complete thought. Another name for a simple sentence is an independent clause.For example:In this sentence, Subject: I and Verb: amIn this sentence, Subject: I and Verb: amIn this sentence, Subject: Nick and Verb: dooIn this sentence, Subject: He and Verb: atThey are having pizza for dinner tonightIn this sentence, Subject: They and Verb: are havingIn the above mentioned sentence, Subject: Mom and Verb: cookedWe can see how there are no conjunctions at the beginning or end of these groups of words, so they are showcasing a complete thought making all of them simple sentences.Meet the Best English Tutor for Free >>>A simple sentence can have a compound subject, that means two or different people or things are doing the same action.For example:Winston and Davis are working on the project.In this sentence, Subjects: Winston, Davis and Verb: are workingNick and Zoe are having orange juice.In this sentence, Subjects: Nick, Zoe and Verb: are havingMom and Dad cooked dinner.In this sentence, Subjects: Mom, Dad and Verb: cookedIn this situation, two people are doing the same action, making it a compound subject. In the second sentence, Mom and Dad are linked together by the coordinating conjunction and being the reason why we call it a simple sentence with compound subjects because there are two or more people or things doing the same action. The conjunctions connected the subjects, so this is a complete thought. Coordinating conjunctions can be remembered by the famous acronym FANBOYS (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So).Related Read: simple sentence can have a compound predicate, which means the subject or subjects of the sentence are doing two or more different things or actions.For example:Shawn worked on the project and completed it.In this sentence, Subject: Shawn and Verbs: worked and completedNick ate pasta and washed the dishes.In the sentence, Subject: Nick and Verbs: ate and washedMom cooked dinner, and cleaned the kitchen in the sentence mentioned above, Subject: Mom and Verbs: cooked and cleaned.In these sentences, the two verb phrases are linked together by the coordinating conjunction and; this makes this simple sentence have a compound predicate. The conjunctions in these sentences connect the verb phrases, which means that this is a complete thought. So we know that these groups of words can stand on their own because they have a subject, verb, and a complete thought.A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction.For example:I am a doctor. My friend is a teacher.These are two independent clauses and can stand on their own; however, we will add conjunction to form a compound sentence.I am a doctor, and my friend is a teacher.She tried to lift her bag. It was too heavy.She did not bring her lunch, so she ordered through the app.I want to go to work, but I am tired.Words like and, but, so are called coordinating conjunctions. Another important thing when we connect these independent clauses is we add a comma after the first clause before adding the conjunction with the second clause. Then, we have a compound sentence.A complex sentence has dependent, and independent clauses joined by a conjunction.For example:When I got home from school yesterdayThis is a dependent clause as it does not express a complete thought and cannot stand on its own. To make it complete, we have to add an independent clause.When I got home from school yesterday, I watched TV for an hour.I love to travel, because I get to meet a lot of interesting people.In this example, one can notice how I love to travel is an independent clause, and then it is joined by a dependent clause because I get to meet a lot of interesting people, making it a complex sentence.Although he was wealthy, still he was unhappy.Dependent clauses start with the linking verbs like when, because, even though; these conjunctions are called subordinating conjunctions. If the dependent clause comes first, we put a comma after it, then write the independent clause.When we buy her birthday cake, we have to make sure it's chocolate.In this example, as well, we have to make sure the chocolate can stand on its own, making it an independent clause; however, when we buy her birthday cake depends on the later clause and cannot stand on its own.As the name suggests, a mixture of compound and complex sentences makes a complex-compound sentence. A compound-complex sentence has more than one independent clause, and one or more dependent clauses joined by the exact coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS)For example:I was crazy about pop music when I was younger, but I'm more into jazz now.The first clause is independent, and then there is a dependent clause, the coordinating conjunction, but, then another dependent clause.Another example:If it rains tomorrow, bring your umbrella, or you might catch a cold.In this example, if it rains tomorrow is a dependent clause, bring your umbrella is an independent clause, or is coordinating conjunction, and then you might catch a cold is an independent clause.After the rain stopped, I went outside, and I picked flowers.In this example, after the rain stopped is a dependent clause and does not give a proper meaning; however, the latter group of words, I went outside and I picked flowers, are independent clauses and can stand on their own. In order to continue enjoying our time, we ask that you confirm your identity as a human. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Last updated on October 2nd, 2023 at 07:41 p.m.As an English learner, it's important to have a solid understanding of sentence structure. Understanding the differences between simple, compound, and complex sentences can help you create more effective communication and engaging writing. In this guide, we'll explore the basics of sentence structure and provide you with 30 simple compound and complex sentences quiz.Before moving on to the quiz section, let's see the definitions of simple compound and complex sentences to understand them better.A simple sentence is the most basic type of sentence. It consists of one independent clause containing a subject and a predicate. The subject is the person, place, or thing the sentence is about, and the predicate is what the subject does.Example: Sarah went to the store.In this example, Sarah is the subject, and went to the store is the predicate. There is only one subject and one predicate, making it a simple sentence.A compound sentence consists of two or more independent clauses joined together by coordinating conjunctions. Coordinating conjunctions include and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet, and.Example: I wanted to go to the park, but it started raining.In this example, I wanted to go to the park is one independent clause, and it started raining is another independent clause. The coordinating conjunction but, joins the two clauses together; but a complete sentence consists of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. A dependent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a predicate, but it cannot stand alone as a sentence. Dependent clauses are often introduced by subordinating conjunctions like although, since, and because.Example: Although I was tired, I stayed up late to finish my book.In this example, I stayed up late to finish my book is the independent clause, and although I was tired is the dependent clause. The dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence. These 30 quizzes cover a range of topics related to simple, compound, and complex sentences, including their identification and structure. You can use these quizzes to test your understanding of sentence types and structure or as teaching materials for educational purposes.Azizul Hakim is the founder & CEO of englishfinders.com. He is a passionate writer, English instructor, and content creator. He has completed his graduation and post-graduation in English language and literature. About This Quiz The "Types of Sentences Quiz: Simple, Compound, Complex" is designed to test your understanding of sentence structures. In this quiz, you will learn to differentiate simple, compound, and complex sentences. A simple sentence contains one independent clause, expressing a complete thought. A compound sentence consists of two or more independent clauses joined by coordinating conjunctions. A complex sentence, on the other hand, has at least one independent clause and one dependent clause, which relies on the independent clause for meaning. By taking this quiz, you will gain a deeper understanding of how sentences are structured and how they function in communication. This knowledge will help improve your writing and comprehension skills, as identifying sentence types is crucial for creating clear and coherent written communication. It is essential for students to recognize these sentence types to enhance their academic writing and language proficiency. Correct Answer Explanation The given sentence "I waited for the train all night" is a simple sentence because it contains one independent clause expressing a complete thought. It has a subject ("I") and a predicate ("waited for the train all night"), making it a straightforward statement without additional clauses or conjunctions. Correct Answer A Although it was raining, they decided to go to the beach, but they brought umbrellas just in case. Explanation A compound-complex sentence contains at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause. "Although it was raining, they decided to go to the beach," but they brought umbrellas just in case." Dependent clause: "Although it was raining" (begins with the subordinating conjunction "although") Independent clauses: "they decided to go to the beach" and "they brought umbrellas just in case" (connected by the coordinating conjunction "but") Correct Answer A She likes to read books, but her brother prefers watching movies. Explanation This sentence is classified as a compound sentence because it consists of two independent clauses joined by the coordinating conjunction "but." Each clause has its own subject and verb and can stand alone as a complete sentence. The conjunction "but" creates a relationship of contrast between the two clauses, highlighting the different preferences of the siblings. Correct Answer Explanation The sentence "The sun was shining brightly, and the birds were singing cheerfully" is a compound sentence because it joins two independent clauses with the coordinating conjunction "and." Each clause, "The sun was shining brightly" and "the birds were singing cheerfully," has its own subject and predicate, making them independent thoughts. The clauses could function as separate simple sentences but are joined here to create a compound sentence. There is no dependent clause, which distinguishes this from a complex or compound-complex sentence. The relationship between the clauses is additive, connecting two equally important actions. Correct Answer Explanation This sentence is classified as a simple sentence because it contains only one independent clause. It has a single subject, "I," and a single verb, "looked." Although it expresses a complex action involving searching for two people at a specific location, it remains a simple sentence due to its single-clause structure. Correct Answer Explanation The given sentence "I waited for the train all night" is a simple sentence because it consists of one independent clause with a subject and a predicate. It does not contain any dependent clauses or conjunctions. Correct Answer A Although it was raining, they decided to go to the beach, but they brought umbrellas just in case. Explanation This is an example of a simple sentence because it contains only one independent clause. It has one subject, "Sarah," and one predicate, "enjoys reading books and watching movies," which includes a compound verb. A simple sentence can include compound elements (like verbs) but does not contain a dependent clause or more than one independent clause. The other sentences are compound or complex, containing multiple clauses. Correct Answer A Compound-Complex sentence Explanation "If you study hard, you will pass the exam, and you can celebrate later" is a compound-complex sentence because it includes two independent clauses and one dependent clause. The independent clauses, "you will pass the exam" and "you can celebrate later," are joined by the coordinating conjunction "and." The dependent clause, "If you study hard," is introduced by the subordinating conjunction "if" and explains the condition for passing the exam. The presence of both coordinating and subordinating conjunctions creates a layered structure, demonstrating both coordination between the independent clauses and subordination with the dependent clause. Correct Answer Explanation A complex sentence contains one independent clause and at least one dependent clause. In this sentence, the independent clause is "we decided to return before dark," which can stand alone. The dependent clause is "Since we had only gone a mile from camp, which provides context but cannot stand alone. The subordinating conjunction since links the two clauses. This structure clearly indicates a complex sentence, as it combines a complete idea with an explanatory one that depends on it. Correct Answer Explanation The given sentence is a complex sentence because it consists of two clauses, an independent clause "my house was completely destroyed" and a dependent clause "After the tornado hit." The dependent clause "After the tornado hit" provides additional information about when the action in the independent clause occurred. Correct Answer Explanation A complex sentence contains one independent clause and at least one dependent clause that are connected by a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun. In the sentence "After finding out that he bought a used shirt, he went to the store to return it," there is one independent clause and one dependent clause: Independent Clause: "He went to the store to return it" Dependent Clause: "After finding out that he bought a used shirt" (introduced by the subordinating conjunction "After") The dependent clause provides additional context about why he went to the store, but it cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Correct Answer A The children played outside. Explanation A simple sentence has one independent clause and no dependent clauses. "The children played outside" is a simple sentence because it consists of a subject ("The children") and a predicate ("played outside") without any additional dependent clause. The other sentences are not simple: "Mary and John went to the store, but they forgot to buy milk" is compound, "The book that I borrowed from the library is due tomorrow" is complex, and "Although it was raining, Sarah decided to go for a run" is also complex. Correct Answer A Compound predicate sentence Explanation The sentence has one subject ("We") performing two actions ("decided to go fishing" and "camp out at the lake"), which means it has a compound predicate. Since there is only one independent clause with multiple verbs, it is a compound predicate sentence, which is a type of simple sentence. Correct Answer Explanation A compound sentence is a sentence that contains two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (such as and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet). In this case, the sentences "The train arrived late, so I missed my appointment" and "Jane likes to play tennis, but she prefers swimming" have two independent clauses each. These clauses are joined by the coordinating conjunctions "so" and "but", respectively. Therefore, these sentences are compound sentences. Correct Answer A Compound-Complex Sentence Explanation The sentence "Older television sets had tubes, the newest models, which take less space, are digital televisions." is a compound-complex sentence. Compound: The sentence has two independent clauses ("Older television sets had tubes" and "the newest models are digital televisions"). Complex: It also includes a dependent clause ("which take less space"). Thus, it qualifies as a compound-complex sentence. Correct Answer Explanation A compound sentence is a sentence that contains two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (such as and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet). In this case, the sentence has two independent clauses: "She wanted to go to the store" and "it was raining heavily." These clauses are joined by the coordinating conjunction "but." Therefore, the sentence is a compound sentence. Correct Answer Explanation The given sentence is a complex sentence because it consists of an independent clause "The rain started" and a dependent clause "as soon as they left home to attend a meeting." In the sentence, the subordinating conjunction is "as soon as." It introduces the dependent clause and shows the relationship between the two clauses. The dependent clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence and relies on the independent clause for meaning. Correct Answer A Compound-Complex sentence Explanation "The teacher explained the topic, and the students took notes while listening carefully" is a compound-complex sentence because it has two independent clauses and one dependent clause. The independent clauses, "The teacher explained the topic" and "the students took notes," are connected by the coordinating conjunction "and." The dependent clause, "while listening carefully," adds additional information about how the students were taking notes. This combination of two independent clauses with a dependent clause provides both a coordinated structure and a subordinate explanation, typical of compound-complex sentences. The sentence demonstrates a relationship between simultaneous actions and additional detail. Correct Answer Explanation A complex sentence consists of an independent clause and a dependent clause. The independent clause in this sentence is "I want to be a ballerina." The dependent clause is "when I grow up." The dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence because it does not express a complete thought. Quiz Review Timeline (Updated): Jul 18, 2025 + Our quizzes are rigorously reviewed, monitored and continuously updated by our experts board to maintain accuracy, relevance, and timeliness. Quiz Edited by Profs Editorial Team Expert Reviewed by Juliette Firla What do you think of when you hear the word structure? I kicked the ball? think of builders and architects planning the parts of a building and figuring out how all the elements will fit together in the final product. You and I might not build buildings, but we do build sentences. We can think of ourselves as word architects, and word architects need to study sentence structure so that they know what possibilities sentences hold. That way, we can learn to vary our sentences, which will make our writing more engaging, and we can make sure that our sentences are grammatically correct. But before we get to studying sentence structure, have you ever stopped to think about what a sentence actually is? A sentence is a group of words, with both a subject and a verb, that expresses a complete thought. Sentences make it easy to understand ideas and learn information. We can categorize sentences based on different criteria, and one way to categorize them is based on their structure. What are clauses and why are they important? When I say that we're looking at a sentence's structure, what we're really looking at is what combination of independent clauses and dependent clauses a sentence has. Because of that, it's important that you know a little bit about clauses before we get started. Clauses are groups of words with both a subject and a verb. There are two main types of clauses. Independent clauses are clauses that can stand alone as complete thoughts. I teach grammar is an independent clause. It contains a subject (I), a verb (teach), and it expresses a complete thought. Dependent clauses are clauses that cannot stand alone as complete thoughts. Because I teach grammar is a dependent clause. It contains a subject (I), a verb (teach), and it does not express a complete thought. Okay...back to sentence structure...When we categorize sentences based on structure (different combinations of independent and dependent clauses), we find that there are four sentence structures. Let's learn about each one! The Four Sentence Structures A simple sentence contains only one independent clause. I kicked the ball. Remember that an independent clause is a group of words that has both a subject and a verb, and expresses a complete thought. I'll use sentence diagrams to show you what these different sentence structures look like because the diagrams really SHOW you the different structures of a simple sentence. Note that there is only one horizontal line. I kicked the ball. I kicked the ball is an independent clause. It contains a subject (I) and a verb (kicked), and it expresses a complete thought. Let's look at something that can cause confusion: simple sentences contain one subject and verb, but both or either of those things can be compound. ("Compound" means that something is made up of two or more elements.) Look at the diagram below and note that the sentence has a compound subject (Lewis, Alice) and a compound verb (played, read). Lewis and Alice played in the backyard and read in the house. In the diagram above, the compound elements are on separate horizontal lines, but there is just one spot where the main horizontal line meets the vertical line. This shows us that it's still a simple sentence; it just has compound elements. Speaking of compound things, let's learn about compound sentences! 2. Compound Sentences A compound sentence contains at least two independent clauses. I kicked the ball, and it hit Tom. These clauses are joined by a coordinating conjunction or a semicolon. (When you join two independent clauses with only a comma, it's a mistake called comma splice.) A coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so) is a word that guesses sentence elements (words, phrases, clauses) together that are the same. Here's a sentence diagram of a compound sentence. Note that there are now two horizontal lines, and one is directly below the other. I kicked the ball, and it hit Tom. I kicked the ball is an independent clause. It hit Tom is also an independent clause. And is a coordinating conjunction joining the two independent clauses. I kicked the ball, and it hit Tom is a compound sentence. Remember that some sentences (Jeremy and I kicked the ball), might seem like they're compound if they have compound elements (Jeremy and I), but they're actually simple. Psst! Did you know? In order to be a complete sentence, a group of words needs to contain a subject and a verb, and it needs to express a complete thought. If a group of words is missing any of that information, it's probably a sentence fragment, and if you have a group of words containing two or more independent clauses that are not properly punctuated, it's probably a run-on sentence. 3. Complex Sentences A complex sentence contains a subordinate clause and an independent clause. Tom cried because the ball hit him. A subordinate clause is a group of words that has a subject and a verb but does not express a complete thought. Here's a sentence diagram of a complex sentence. Note that there are still two horizontal lines, but one of them is below the other and moved to the right. Tom cried because the ball hit him. Tom cries an independent clause. Because the ball hit him is a dependent adverb clause modifying the verb cried. Tom cried because the ball hit him is a complex sentence. Sometimes, it can be hard for people to tell the difference between compound sentences and complex sentences, and a sentence's structures can be changed by swapping out just one word! You can learn more about that here. 4. Compound-Complex Sentences A compound-complex sentence is just what it seems like it would be. :) It's basically a combination of a compound sentence and a complex sentence. You know what that means, right? It means that these guys contain at least two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause. Tom cried because the ball hit him, and I apologized immediately. Here's a diagram of a compound-complex sentence. Note that it's a hybrid of a compound sentence and a complex sentence! Two of the horizontal lines are directly above and below each other and the third is hanging out there in the middle. Tom cried because the ball hit him, and I apologized immediately. Tom cried and I apologized immediately are both independent clauses. They're being joined by the conjunction and. Because the ball hit him is a dependent adverb clause modifying the verb cried. The whole sentence is a compound-complex sentence. Now you have a great understanding of sentence structure! Be sure to sign up for our free bi-weekly newsletter so that we can keep in touch! Why is this important? Okay, now you know about simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences, but you might be wondering why this information is even important. Here are 9 things understanding sentence structure will do help you do: Write with clarity. Writing with an understanding of sentence structure helps you present your ideas clearly. This means that you'll be able to communicate your ideas without ambiguity. Write effectively. Whether you're writing an essay, a report, an email, or a speech, knowing how to structure sentences helps you organize your thoughts logically. This enhances your ability to communicate your ideas persuasively and convincingly. Use correct punctuation. Sentence structure is closely tied to punctuation rules. When you understand how sentences are constructed, it helps you use the right punctuation. Even if you don't know how to punctuate a particular sentence, understanding sentence structure allows you to search for the right answer. For example, if you know sentence structure, but you're unsure of punctuation rules, you might perform the following searches: - Do I add a comma after an introductory adverb clause? - Does a noun clause acting as the subject of a sentence need a comma after it? But, in order to create relevant searches, you would need to know what about sentence structure! Have better reading comprehension. When you understand how sentences are constructed, you can better comprehend the material you read. This is particularly important when dealing with complex or technical content. When you understand the grammatical structure of a sentence, it helps you rank the ideas in the sentence based on their relative importance; it helps you understand how the parts of the sentence fit together. Expand your vocabulary. Analyzing sentence structure can lead to a better understanding of word usage, synonyms, antonyms, and idiomatic expressions. This depends your vocabulary and helps you choose the most appropriate words for your writing. Think critically. Breaking down a sentence's structure encourages you to think critically about the relationships between words and phrases. This can enhance your analytical skills and help you identify flaws or inconsistencies in arguments. Learn a foreign language. If you're learning a new language, understanding sentence structure is crucial! Different languages have different structures, and grasping these differences aids in language acquisition. Be a better editor or proofreader. When you know how sentences are supposed to be constructed, you can identify errors more easily during the editing and proofreading process. This includes spotting run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and subject-verb agreement issues. Get creative. Using proper sentence structure is important, but understanding it also allows you to play with language creatively. You can experiment with sentence lengths, structures, and arrangements to develop your own unique style of writing. As they say, "You need to understand the rules before you can break them!" Understanding sentence structure empowers you to effectively express your thoughts and have meaningful conversations. It's a fundamental skill that supports thinking, reading, and writing! Summary Let's review what we covered on this page! A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. Sentences need to have a subject and a verb. Clauses are groups of words that have both a subject and a verb. Independent clauses can stand alone as complete thoughts. Dependent clauses cannot stand alone as complete thoughts. When we categorize sentences based on their structure, we find that there are four sentence structures. Each one is simply a different combination of independent and dependent clauses. Simple sentences contain just one independent clause. Compound sentences contain two or more independent clauses. Complex sentences contain one independent clause and at least one dependent clause. Compound-complex sentences contain two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause. Understanding sentence structure helps you read, write, and think more effectively. There are four sentence structures in English: Simple, Compound, Complex, and Compound-Complex. Here are examples of each: She ate lunch. (Simple: one independent clause) She ate lunch, but she was still hungry. (Compound: two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction) She was still hungry even though she had eaten lunch. (Complex: an independent clause + a dependent clause) She was tired, and she was still hungry even though she had eaten lunch. (Compound-Complex: two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction and one dependent clause) First, Understanding Clauses A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb. It's important to understand that there are two types of clauses: Independent Clauses A sentence must have at least one independent clause. An independent clause is a group of words that forms a complete thought when you put it together. Here are some examples: She ate lunch. The car drove on the road. On Tuesday, I had my test. These sentences are complete thoughts, which means that no more information is needed to understand them completely. Dependent Clauses (Subordinate Clauses) Dependent clauses are incomplete thoughts. They depend on an independent clause in order for the sentence to have meaning. Dependent clauses begin with a subordinate conjunction. Here are some examples: when I got home, what happened? because the restaurant was closed (what happened because it was closed?) whom I respect very much (whom are we talking about?) As you can see, more information is needed. To create a complete sentence, you need to add an independent clause. Here are the examples again but written as complete sentences: I washed the dishes when I got home. We couldn't eat because the restaurant was closed. The company's owner is Alice Brown, whom I respect very much. Now that you understand this, we can look at the four different sentence structures. A simple sentence is one independent clause. A clause is a group of words that contain a subject and a verb, and an independent clause is a group of words that form a complete thought when you put them together. Here are some examples: She ate lunch. (Independent clause) The car drove on the road. (Independent clause) Again, all of these sentences are complete thoughts. A compound sentence is made of two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction. Although the most commonly used coordinating conjunctions are but, and, so, and, or, there are seven coordinating conjunctions in English: = for = and = nor = but = or = yet = so (Independent clause) + (Independent clause) { coordinating conjunction } (Independent clause) She ate lunch, but she was still hungry. He sat down, and he read a book. It was rainy, so we stayed inside. We can order food or we can make pasta at home. The above sentences are all independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction, so they are all compound sentences. A complex sentence has a dependent clause and an independent clause. The dependent clause can come at the beginning of the sentence or at the end. Here are some examples: She fell asleep because she was tired. Because she was tired, she fell asleep. I'll call you if I go. If I go, I'll call you. (Note: When a dependent clause starts a sentence, you should put a comma at its end to show where the clause ends.) An adjective clause (also known as a relative clause) is also considered a dependent clause as well. E.g. This is the store where I bought my hat. Vancouver, which is in western Canada, is a beautiful city. A compound-complex sentence has the following two independent clauses joined a coordinating conjunction. The dependent clause can be anywhere in the sentence. Here are some examples: She took out her umbrella because it was raining, and then she walked home. I don't like exercising, but I'll do it if I have to. The man who was on the other side of the street waved, so I looked at him. Question: What about Compound-Compound? Complex-Complex? Technically, you can make more complicated types of sentence structures, for example: She arrived and then he arrived and then I arrived so we were all there. Is this Compound-Compound-Compound sentence? No. It's still just called a Compound sentence. Also, it's a badly written sentence. Before she went home, she cleaned up the area where she had worked. Is this a Complex-Complex sentence? No. It's still called a complex sentence, even though there are two dependent clauses. Why is all this important? What sentence structures should I use? Spoken English tends to mainly use simple and compound sentences, but higher-level writing (e.g. academic and business communications) should use some complex structures. A complex sentence can be more efficient because it can contain several ideas in the same sentence. Also, using conjunctions such as although or because helps the reader understand how ideas relate to each other, which makes your writing more cohesive. Still, writing well doesn't mean only using long and complicated sentences. Writing is most effective when it's clear. This can be achieved by using short, simple sentences, such as this one. In short, writing effectively and efficiently means using a variety of sentence structures. ^ By the way, the above two paragraphs contained the following: Compound sentences: 1 Spoken English tends to mainly use simple and compound sentences, but higher-level writing (e.g. academic and business communications) should use a variety of structures (i.e. simple, compound, and complex). Complex sentences: 3 A complex sentence can be more efficient because it can contain several ideas in the same sentence. Also, using conjunctions such as 'although' or 'because' helps the reader understand how ideas relate to each other, which makes your writing more cohesive. Writing is most effective when it's clear. Simple sentences: 2 Still, writing well doesn't mean only using long and complicated sentences. This can be achieved by using short, simple sentences, such as this one: In short, writing effectively and efficiently means using a variety of sentence structures. Compound-complex: 0 Do you think you understand? Try our exercises below! Exercises #1: Identifying Sentence Structures The man smiled and laughed. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex The cat is away, the mice will play. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex The answer is not known. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex If people would like to apply, they can call 1-800-493-222 or they can e-mail inquiries@abccompany.com. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex I e-mailed the company, and they responded immediately, which surprised me. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex Show Answers & Explanation Simple (Independent clause) Note: "and laughed" is not a clause because it does not contain another subject and verb. Therefore, this sentence only has one clause: Compound (Independent clause + coordinating conjunction + Independent clause) Complex (Dependent clause + Independent clause) Simple (Independent clause) Simple (Independent clause) Compound (Independent clause + coordinating conjunction + independent clause) Compound (Independent clause + coordinating conjunction + Independent clause) Compound-complex (Independent clause, independent clause, dependent clause, dependent clause) Exercises #2: Identifying Sentence Structures The train station was still closed but a few coffee shops were open. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex Some people only need a computer to do their jobs, so they can easily work from home. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex On the second weekend of July last year, I went camping. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex As population increases, food shortages become more common and quality of life can decrease. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex The price of the service increased by 20%, but because the company did not inform its customers, many people demanded an explanation. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex Many students didn't understand, so their teacher explained the answers very clearly and slowly. Simple Compound Complex Compound-Complex Show Answers & Explanations Compound (Independent clause + coordinating conjunction + Independent clause) Complex (Dependent clause + Independent clause) Compound (Independent clause + coordinating conjunction + Independent clause) Simple (Independent clause) Note: "On the second weekend of July last year" is a prepositional phrase, not a clause because there is no subject or verb. Compound-Complex (Dependent clause, independent clause, independent clause, independent clause) Compound (Independent clause, coordinating conjunction, independent clause) If you have any questions about sentence structures, please leave a comment below or visit our forums... Created by Matthew Barton of Englishcurrent.com (Copyright) English multiple-choice grammar quiz about Simple, Compound, Complex Sentences Start Simple, Compound, Complex Sentences Quiz > Preview: As Lily had a tea party, she invited her friends. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex She pinched his tail. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex When no one was looking, Lily had her own ideas. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex Unless you work hard, you will fail. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex We want Julius to be as extraordinary as you so we must tell constantly how beautiful he is. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex He can blow bubbles and he can babble and gurgle. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex She warned strangers about babies too. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex Lilly's nose twitched and her eyes narrowed. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex When Lilly's mother felt up to it, she planned a festive celebration in honor of Julius. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex Before you go to the mall, finish your work. A. Simple B. Complex C. Compound Lilly's parents were amazed when Julius screamed. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex Because she had a fight with Tom, she simply pretended that he didn't exist. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex Her parents loved him and they kissed his wet pink nose. A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex After Julius goes away, do I get my room back? A. Simple B. Compound C. Complex She bought this bag for \$15. A. Simple B. Complex C. Compound none. Random Topics: BASIC GRAMMAR - PRONOUNS Adverb Phrases Adverbial Clause Verb Phrase Modals of Speculation and Deduction Auxiliary Verbs (be, do, have) Modals of Advice Wish / If only (Present) Present Tenses and Vocabulary Nouns Formation The first sentence structure in English is the simple sentence. Simple sentences consist of one verb clause. A verb clause is an independent clause that is formed by a subject and a predicate. Verb clauses are also referred to as main clauses or matrix clauses. For example, the following sentences are simple sentences: Subject | Predicate The dancer | sat on the pie. The flower and the pumpkin | have blown away. That Max likes cucumbers | surprises his mother. Dancing | is my favorite exercise. Compound Sentences The second sentence structure in English is the compound sentence. Compound sentences consist of two or more verb clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction or a correlating and coordinating conjunction pair. For example, the following sentences are compound sentences: Correlating Conjunction | Verb Clause | Coordinating Conjunction | Verb Clause | Jack Sprat did not eat fat, | and | his wife would not eat lean. | The storm destroyed our squash, | so we ate eggplant instead. Both | the shed fell down | and | the garage blew up. Either | you need to study harder | or | you need to drop the class. Complex Sentences The third sentence structure in English is the complex sentence. Complex sentences consist of one verb clause and one or more adverb clauses. An adverb clause is a dependent clause that is formed by a subordinating conjunction followed by a clause. The adverb clauses may either precede or follow the verb clause. For example, the following sentences are complex sentences: Adverb Clause | Verb Clause Because of the rain, | the museum cancelled the picnic. Although she studied all weekend, | she still failed the test. Verb Clause | Adverb Clause I will join you for lunch | after I wash my hands. I must be sad | if he misses the Great Pumpkin again. Adverb Clause | Verb Clause Even though he enjoyed the movie, | he will not buy the DVD | because he only watches films once. After she left work, | the woman stopped at the store | before she went home. Compound-Complex Sentences The fourth sentence structure in English is the compound-complex sentence. Compound-complex sentences consist of two or more verb clauses and one or more adverb clauses. In other words, compound-complex sentences are combinations of one or more compound sentences and one or more complex sentences. For example, the following sentences are compound-complex sentences: Verb Clause | Adverb Clause | Conjunction | Verb Clause He went to the market | because he needed more milk, | and | then he made pudding. Adverb Clause | Verb Clause | Conjunction | Verb Clause Unless the coffee is hot, | I will not drink it, | so | please put on a fresh pot. Verb Clause | Adverb Clause | Conjunction | Verb Clause I went to the bathroom | before I sat down, | but | my husband visited the facilities | after he watched the movie. Printable Download For a printable reference study sheet of the sentence types in English, please download the supplement to this article English Sentence Structure: The Four Types of Sentences in English.

Simple sentence to compound and complex. 5 compound complex sentences. Simple compound and complex sentences quizlet. Compound complex sentences quizlet. Sentence compound complex examples. What is compound complex sentence and give 5 examples.

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