

Simple
Sentences
Compound

Complex

Simple Sentences

A simple sentence is made up of ONE clause. It may contain connecting words (conjunctions), but they will only be connecting words or phrases.

My dog barked at the birds and squirrels. <-- This sentence is "simple" because it cannot be broken into two other sentences; it contains one clause.

Compound Sentences

A compound sentence is made up of TWO INDEPENDENT CLAUSES. It contains a connecting word (conjunction), and could be split into two separate sentences.

An Independent Clause is a piece of a sentence that could be a sentence by itself.

Sentence with two independent clauses: Jasmine is a great soccer player, and she is a hard worker.

(Both underlined clauses above are Independent because they could be sentences by themselves.)

Complex Sentences

A complex sentence is made up of an Independent clause and a dependent clause.

A Dependent Clause is a piece of sentence that **depends** on an independent clause to make sense.

Sentence with a dependent clause: The present, which was left on the doorstep, did not have a name on it.

("which was left on the doorstep" cannot stand as a sentence itself. It depends on the rest of the sentence to make sense.)

Relative Pronouns begin dependent clauses:
Who Whom Whose Which That

Combining Sentences using dependent clauses...

Niagara Falls is on the border of
New York State and Canada.

Niagara Falls attracts many tourists.

Niagara Falls, which attracts many
tourists, is on the border of
New York State and Canada.

Subordinate Conjunctions

are also used to create complex sentences.

after	since	until
although	so	while
because	unless	so that
if	when	

Although skating originated as a fast way of traveling, it has now become a popular sport.

The Great Wall was built so that China could be protected from invaders.

When ancient Egyptian kings died, their bodies were mummified.

Vary Sentence Beginnings

1. Subject-Verb pattern

George Washington ^S faced ^V many challenges.

2. With a phrase

During his presidency, George Washington faced many challenges.

3. With a clause

When George Washington was president, he faced many challenges.