

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.)