

SENTENCE STRUCTURE



Sentence Structure Types



- Simple
- Compound
- Complex
- Compound-Complex

Simple Sentence



Simple sentences



Are made of one independent clause and therefore form a complete thought.

Compound Sentence



Compound Sentences



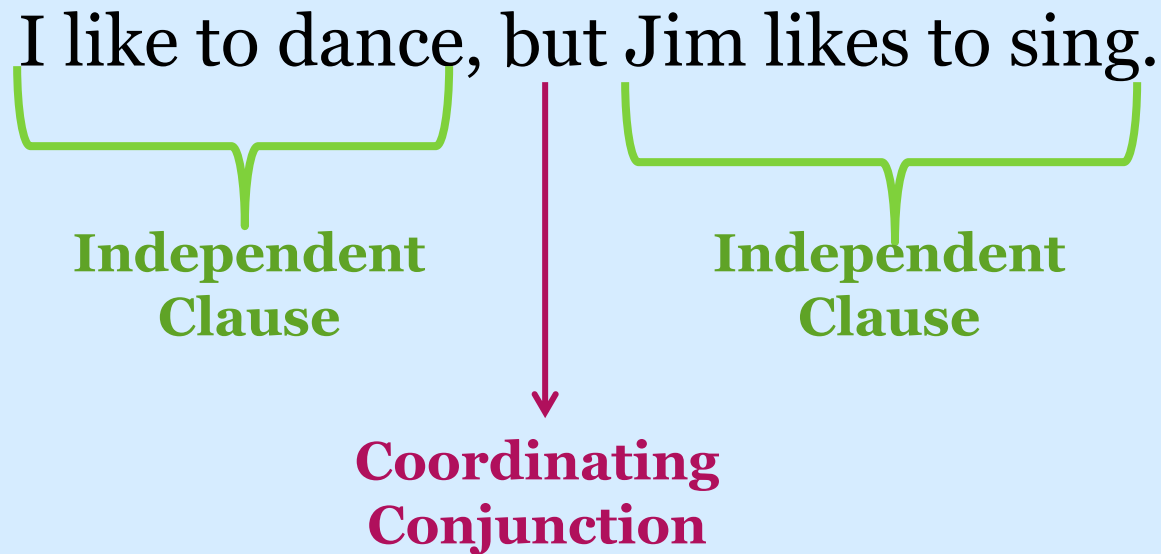
Are made of two independent clauses joined in one of the following ways:

1. A coordinating conjunction with a comma
2. a semicolon with a conjunctive adverb
3. a semicolon only

Compound Sentence with a Coordinating Conjunction



- Example with a Coordinating Conjunction



Compound Sentence with a Conjunctive Adverb and Semicolon



- Conjunctive adverbs are sometimes called “floating” adverbs because they can be positioned at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a clause.
- Some common conjunctive adverbs:
 - Moreover
 - However
 - Otherwise
 - Therefore

“Floating” Conjunctive Adverb



- Bob is handsome; moreover, he is rich.
- Bob is handsome; he is, moreover, rich.
- Bob is handsome; he is rich, moreover.

Compound Sentence with a Semicolon



- “If the relation between the ideas expressed in the main clauses is very close and obvious without a conjunction, you can separate the clauses with a semicolon.”
(Little, Brown Handbook, 9th Edition, p. 361)
- Example: Tom has benefited from exercising; he is slim and energetic.

Complex Sentence



Complex Sentence



- contain one independent and one subordinate (dependent) clause
- the subordinate clause begins with a subordinate conjunction
- the clauses can appear in any order

Complex Sentence



- After the sun set, we built a campfire.

**Dependent
Clause**

**Independent
Clause**

*Note the comma when the dependent clause comes at the beginning of a sentence.

- We built a campfire after the sun set.

**Independent
Clause**

**Dependent
Clause**

Compound-Complex Sentence



Compound-Complex Sentence



- contains one subordinate (dependent) clause
- two or more independent clauses
- Example: Since we wanted to have fun, my boyfriend and I went to San Juan yesterday, and we danced all night.

Exercises



Indicate if the following sentences are:
Simple, compound, complex or compound-complex.



1. The bell rang.
2. Bridget ran the first part of the race, and Tara biked the second part.
3. He stands at the bottom of the cliff while the climber moves up the rock.
4. The skier turned and jumped.
5. Naoki passed the test because he studied hard and he understood the material.

Indicate if the following sentences are:
Simple, compound, complex or compound-complex.



1. Because Kayla has so much climbing experience , we asked her to lead our group.
2. You and I need piano lessons.
3. I planned to go to the hockey game, but I couldn't get tickets.
4. John likes white water rafting, but she also enjoys kayaking.
5. There are many problems to solve before this program can be used, but engineers believe that they will be able to solve them soon.

References



Writing Academic English, Second Edition, by Alice Oshima and Ann Hogue. White Plains: Addison, Wesley, Longman, 1999.

The Little, Brown Handbook, by H. Ramsey Fowler and Jane E. Aaron, Pearson, 2004.