

Study Guide

Simple, Compound, & Complex Sentences

A **Simple Sentence** may contain a **Compound Subject** is a subject with two or more nouns or pronouns joined by the word *and* or another conjunction. Compound subjects share the same predicate. Ask yourself the following when forming compound subjects.

- are both the subjects different?
- are both the predicates the same?
- If they are, take the subject from the 2nd sentence and add the conjunctions *and* or *or* and the subject from the 2nd sentence to the 1st sentence.
- do I have two or more nouns or pronouns?
- are my nouns or pronouns joined by ***and*** or another ***coordinating conjunctions***?
- are my nouns or pronouns used in a series and if so did I use a comma?
- do my nouns or pronouns share one **common verb**?

Example:

Her shoes were covered with mud. **Her ankles** were covered with mud, too.

Compound Subject: Her [shoes] and [ankles] were covered with mud.

'**Her shoes and ankles**' is the compound subject.

The predicate in both the sentences is '**were covered with mud.**'

A **Simple Sentence** may contain a **Compound Predicate** is a predicate with two or more verbs joined by the word *and* or another conjunction. Compound predicates share the same subject. Ask yourself the following when forming compound predicates.

- are the both subjects the same?
- are both the predicates different?
- If they are, delete the subject from the 2nd sentence and add the conjunctions *and*, *or*, or *but*.
- do I have two or more verbs
- are my verbs joined by the word ***and*** or another ***coordinating conjunction***?
- do my verbs share a **common subject**?

Example:

Jan **jumped** on her bike. Jan **rode** around the block.

Compound Predicate: Jan [jumped] on her bike *and* [rode] around the block.

The compound predicate is '**jumped on her bike and rode around the block.**' The subject in both the sentences is **Jan**.

A **Simple Sentence** may contain a **Compound Subject** and a **Compound Predicate**.

[Jan] and [Bill] [jumped] and [rode] around the block.

A **Compound Sentence** is a sentence with two or more simple sentences joined by the word ***and*** or another **conjunction**.

- delete the period, add a comma, and add a coordinating conjunction.

- be sure that the 2nd sentence has a subject.
- do I have two or more simple sentences?
- are my simple sentences joined by the word and or another **coordinating conjunction**?
- have I used a comma to the left of my **coordinating conjunction**?

Example:

Jan jumped on her bike. Mary followed on her bike.

Compound Sentence: [Jan jumped on her bike,] and [Mary followed on her bike.]

The **Complex Sentence** contains at least one independent clause & one dependent clause.

The **dependent clause** can come first or last. Use a comma (,) after a dependent clause that comes first.

Remember that a complex sentence is a simple sentence (*independent clause*) to which a part of a sentence (*dependent clause*) has been added. (The dependent clause needs the rest of the sentence for support.) A **dependent clause** contains a subject and verb. It begins with a subordinating conjunction, and thus it does not express a completed thought. A dependent clause is also called a *subordinate* clause. Dependent clauses are cliff hangers and cannot stand alone. Ask yourself the following when forming complex sentences.

- have I used a subordinating conjunction?
- if my dependent clause is at the beginning of my sentence, did I use a comma?

Example:

Because I like to study grammar, I love this class.

I love this class **because I like to study grammar**

Subordinating Conjunctions		
Time	Cause and Effect	Contrast
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after • before • as soon as • as • when • until • while 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • because • since • if • even though 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • although • while • though • whereas • unless