

Sentence Forms and Types

Simple Sentences

1. A simple sentence contains a subject and verb and expresses one complete thought.
2. A simple sentence can stand on its own.
3. A simple sentence is also called an independent clause.
4. In a simple sentence, the subject, verb, or both may be compound (more than one).
 - Juan slept. (singular subject, singular verb)
 - Juan and Bobby slept. (compound subject, singular verb)
 - Juan and Bobby ate and slept. (compound subject, compound verb)

Compound Sentences

1. A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses and expresses more than one complete thought.
2. Independent clauses are joined by a comma and coordinating conjunctions or a semicolon without a coordinating conjunction.
 - Bobby likes watching TV, **but she prefers going to the movies.**
 - Bobby likes watching TV; John enjoys exercising on the treadmill.

Coordinating Conjunctions

and	or	nor
for	so	yet
	but	

Note: When using a semicolon to join compound sentences, the two ideas must be directly connected to each other.

Complex Sentences

1. A complex sentence contains an independent clause and a dependent clause. A dependent clause may contain a subject and a verb, however, it cannot stand alone because it is dependent on an independent clause for completeness.
 - She rarely takes vacations because she is the CEO.
dependent clause → Because she is the CEO
independent clause → She rarely takes vacations
A comma is not needed because the independent clause comes first.
2. A dependent clause that appears at the beginning of a complex sentence is set off by a comma.
 - If you are going to walk to school, be sure to stay on the path.
dependent clause → If you are going to walk to school
independent clause → Be sure to stay on the path
Because the dependent clause comes first, the comma is needed.

Subordinate conjunctions introduce a dependent clause in a complex sentence.

after	so
although	so that
as	that
as if	though
as long as	unless
as though	until
because	when
before	where
if	whereas
in order that	while
since	

Compound-Complex Sentence

1. A compound-complex sentence contains at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.
 - If you are going to walk to school, be sure to stay on the path; you will not get lost.
dependent clause → If you are going to walk to school
independent clause → be sure to stay on the path
independent clause → you will not get lost
Because the dependent clause comes first, the comma is needed. The semicolon joins the two independent clauses.

To write a compound-complex sentence without a semicolon, use a comma before a conjunction.
If you are going to walk to school, be sure to stay on the path, and you will not get lost.

Compound-Complex Sentence
two + dependent clauses
and
one dependent clause

Coordinating Conjunctions

and
but
or
for
nor
yet
so

Fragments

1. A sentence fragment does not express a complete thought because it does not contain a subject and predicate. A fragment may also be a dependent clause. For these reasons, a fragment cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.
 - Enjoyed the movie. (no subject)
 - Speaking of movies, Joe, Lucy, and I. (no predicate)
 - Although I enjoyed the movie. (dependent clause, missing a complete thought)
2. To fix a fragment, add the missing component or join it with a complete sentence (independent clause).
 - I enjoyed the movie.
 - Speaking of movies, Joe, Lucy, and I saw *Frozen* yesterday.
 - Although I enjoyed the movie, I prefer romantic comedies.

Run-ons

1. A run-on sentence occurs when a writer places no punctuation between independent clauses.
 - Bobby likes movies John likes vacations.
2. To fix a run-on sentence, use one of these constructions
 - Bobby likes movies. John likes vacations. (added period)
 - Bobby likes movies, and John likes vacations. (added comma and coordinating conjunction)
 - Bobby likes movies; John likes vacations. (added semicolon)
 - Although Bobby likes movies, John likes vacations. (adds a subordinating conjunction)