Types of Sentences

A **simple sentence** has just one independent clause, which includes a subject, a verb, and a completed thought.

- Joe likes to drive a car.

A **compound sentence** is a sentence that consists of two or more clauses coordinated with each other. It can be linked in two different ways:

- Syndetically – using subordinating conjunctions (and, or, else, but, etc.) or conjunctive adverbs (otherwise, however, nevertheless, yet, still, therefore, etc.)
    - Joe waited for the train, **but** the train was late.
- Asyndetically – without a conjunction or connective word that would normally be there. It is done to give a certain effect to the sentence.
    - I gave her love, hope, a reason to exist.

A **complex sentence** consists of a principal clause and one or more subordinate (dependent) clauses. Here are several examples of complex sentences:

- It is important to know **whether I'm right or wrong**.
- John moved to Spain **where he developed his prose style**.
- **As soon as I saw Susan**, I realized that something bad had happened.
- Our lunch was postponed **because Mary was late.**

Complex sentences can be linked in two different ways:

- Syndetically – using subordinating conjunctions (after, although, as, because, before, even though, if, since, that, though, unless, when, whenever, whereas, wherever, while)
    - She was convinced that Mark had eaten the last piece of cake.
- Asyndetically – without a conjunction or connective word.
    - I wish you had come earlier.

A **compound-complex sentence** is a sentence consisting of two or more coordinate clauses. One of these will have at least one or more subordinate clauses.

- Until he graduates, he will live at home, but then he wants to buy a house.