

Basics of Grammar

Simple Sentence:

A simple sentence must have a noun (naming word) and a verb (doing word). It could also have adverbs and adjectives.

Examples:

- The cat sat on the mat.
- Slowly, the young, anxious child ambled along the road.

Compound Sentence:

A compound sentence is formed from two simple sentences joined together using a **coordinating conjunction**. In a compound sentence, both sentences could make sense on their own.

Coordinating conjunctions (known as FANBOYS):

For

And

Nor

But

Or

Yet

So

You do not need a comma in a compound sentence.

Examples:

- Cats make great pets **for** they are clean and not too noisy.
- He arrived early **and** got the best seats.
- We have never been to Africa **nor** have we visited Asia.
- I really want to go to school **but** I am unwell.
- I think I will play with a red car **or** a blue motor bike.
- I am trying to eat healthily **yet** I really want a chocolate bar.
- Sarah behaved really well all day **so** she got a reward.

Complex Sentence:

A complex sentence must contain a **subordinate clause** and a **main clause**.

A clause is a group of words containing a subject and a verb.

A **subordinate clause** is a clause that does not make sense on its own.

A **main** (or independent) **clause** is a clause that does make sense on its own.

A **subordinate clause** must start with a **subordinating conjunction**.

There are 3 types of subordinate clauses that are classified based on their subordinating conjunction.

	Subordinate clauses	Non-finite subordinate clauses	Relative subordinate clauses
Subordinating conjunctions	as, if, because, although, since, despite, until, however, nevertheless, after, even, in order that, once, than, unless, while, whilst	Words ending in 'ing' or 'ed' Eg: Going, running, finding, exploring, helping, having deprived, hunted.	who, which, where, when, whose, that or with

Subordinate clauses can be in 3 different positions in a sentence:

Fronted, embedded or following

Fronted subordinate clauses need one comma.

Embedded subordinate clauses need two commas.

Following subordinate clauses do not need any commas.

Examples:

- **Although it was raining**, the children still played football.
- **As he was ambitious**, he always worked hard.

Examples:

- **Because the food went cold**, I heated it in the microwave.
- The evil wizard, **who dreamed of world domination**, made his cunning plan.
- They were delighted with their progress **until their model fell apart**.