



SENTENCE STRUCTURES

What is a SENTENCE ?

A sentence is the largest unit of any language and in English language, it begins with a capital letter and ends with a full-stop, or a question mark, or an exclamation mark.

Four primary sentence structures

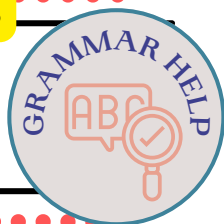
- Simple Sentences
- Compound Sentences
- Complex Sentences
- Compound-Complex Sentences

SIMPLE SENTENCES

A simple sentence consists of a single independent clause. It has a subject and a predicate (a verb and its accompanying words) and expresses a complete thought.

Structure of Simple Sentences

Subject + Verb +
(Object/Complement)



The cat slept on the mat.

This is a simple sentence because it contains one independent clause: "The cat slept on the mat." Here "The cat" is the subject and "slept" is the verb. The sentence expresses a complete thought.

She reads books every evening.

This is also a simple sentence because it contains one independent clause: "She reads books every evening." "She" is the subject and "reads" is the verb. The sentence expresses a complete thought

The student studied diligently for the exam.

This is also a simple sentence because it contains one independent clause: "The student studied diligently for the exam." "The student" is the subject and "studied" is the verb. The sentence expresses a complete thought.

COMPOUND SENTENCES

They consist of two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction. These clauses are of equal importance and can stand alone as separate sentences.

Structure

Independent clause + Coordinating conjunction + Independent clause



She went to the store, and she bought some groceries.

This is a compound sentence because it contains two independent clauses: "She went to the store" and "she bought some groceries." The coordinating conjunction "and" connects the two independent clauses and Both these clauses express a complete thought.

The weather was cold, but the sun was shining.

This is also a compound sentence because it contains two independent clauses: "The weather was cold" and "the sun was shining." The coordinating conjunction "but" connects the two independent clauses. Both clauses express a complete thought.

I wanted to go for a walk; however, it started raining.

This is a compound sentence because it contains two independent clauses: "I wanted to go for a walk" and "it started raining." The semicolon (;) connects the two independent clauses. The conjunctive adverb "however" is used to show the contrast between the two independent clauses.

COMPLEX SENTENCES

A complex sentence consists of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. Dependent clauses cannot stand alone as separate sentences and are usually introduced by subordinating conjunctions like because, although, if, since, or when.

COMPLEX SENTENCE

Independent clause +
Subordinating conjunction +
Dependent clause

(or vice versa)

Because it was raining, they decided to stay indoors.

This is a complex sentence because it contains one independent clause: "They decided to stay indoors" and one dependent clause: "because it was raining." The dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence because it does not express a complete thought. Instead, it provides information about why they decided to stay indoors.

When the sun sets, the stars begin to appear.

This is a complex sentence because it contains one independent clause: "The stars begin to appear" and one dependent clause: "when the sun sets." The dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence because it does not express a complete thought. Instead, it provides information about when the stars begin to appear.

COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES

Compound-complex sentences are the most intricate of all sentence structures. They combine at least two independent clauses and one dependent clause.

Compound-complex sentences are perfect for conveying multiple related ideas or expressing complex thoughts with clarity and precision.

COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

This sentence structure allows us to convey multiple related ideas in a single, coherent sentence

I wanted to go for a walk, but it started raining, so I decided to stay home and read a book.

"I wanted to go for a walk" is the first independent clause in the sentence. It expresses a complete thought on its own.

"But it started raining" is the second independent clause. The conjunction "but" is used to show a contrast or contradiction between the first and second clauses. This clause also expresses a complete thought on its own.

"So I decided to stay home and read a book" is the dependent clause. It begins with the subordinating conjunction "so," which indicates the cause-and-effect relationship between the previous clauses. The dependent clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence because it relies on the previous clauses to make sense.

PRACTISE EXERCISE

Mentioned in The Video lesson

Identify the sentence Structure

- The sun is shining brightly.
- He loves playing football, but he also enjoys watching basketball games.
- Although she had a headache, she decided to go to the party.
- I couldn't sleep because I was anxious, so I decided to read a book.

ANSWERS

- Simple Sentences
- Compound Sentences
- Complex Sentences
- Compound-Complex Sentences