Sentence Types

There are four basic kinds of sentences in English: simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences.

Simple Sentence
A simple sentence has a subject and a verb and expresses one complete thought.

- The alarm sounded.
- A jet soared through the darkening sky.
- Shorts and T-shirts sway on the clothesline.
- The children splashed and squealed in the swimming pool.
- Every weekend, Gary, Sam, and Rita go to the movies, eat at a Chinese restaurant, and dance at a club.

Compound Sentence
A compound sentence is made up of two or more complete thoughts.

-Rose wants chili for dinner, but she forgot to buy beans.

In the above example, the simple sentence has been connected by using a comma plus the joining word but. There are seven such joining words. Those words are known as coordinating conjunctions. (Fan Boys)

Joining Words (coordinating conjunctions)

And (in addition)
But (contrast, opposition)
So (as a result)
For (because)
Yet (can host, opposition)
Or (to show alternative, choice)
Nor (to indicate a second negative statement)
Complex Sentence

A complex sentence includes one independent statement and at least one dependent statement, which cannot stand-alone.

Examples:

- Although nearby trees were blown down, our house escaped the tornado.
- As the kidnapper made demands on the phone, police surrounded the building.
- Paula will not sell her home in the country even if she gets a job in the city.

Dependent Words

After   although   as   were   because   before

even   if   even though   if   when   while

because   since   whenever   before   though

Complex -Compound Sentence

The compound-complex sentence is a combination of compound and complex sentence types. Like the compound sentence, it includes two independent statements. Like the complex sentence, it contains at least one dependant statement.

Example:

- When the children’s parents were out of town, the babysitter had parties, and the children watched TV until midnight.
- Although I like animals very much, I am away from home a great deal, so I do not own a pet.
- I love my grandparents, but I can’t see them often because they live in Italy.