

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.