

Four Types of Sentences

Simple, Compound, Complex, Compound-complex

A **simple sentence** consists of one independent clause which includes *a subject*, a *predicate* and *a complete thought*.

Example: The **dog** barked at the postal worker.

The **subject** is the **dog** (noun or pronoun that is doing the action or that is in a state of being).

The **predicate** is **barked at the postal worker**. (This includes the verb: barked) This could be a complete sentence with or without the prepositional phrase (*at the postal worker*.) It has a complete thought either way.

A **compound sentence** is the **combination of two complete sentences** which may be combined using a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or using a semi-colon if the sentences meet the relationship requirement of the semi-colon.

Example: Writing tutors in The Writing Center at TTC are friendly, and they know how

to help students. (The **subject** of the first sentence is **tutors**, and the **predicate** is **are friendly**. The **subject** of the second sentence is **they**. The **predicate** is **know how to help students**. The two sentences are **joined** by a **comma** and the word **and**. This compound sentence has a complete thought. The sentences could also have been joined by using a semi-colon.)

A **complex sentence** consists of **an independent clause** and **one or more dependent clauses**. Using a subordinating conjunction (since, because, while, if, after, although, etc.) or a relative pronoun (who, whom, that, or which) creates a dependent clause.

Example: Because writing tutors are excited about grammar and organization, students enjoy working with the tutors in The Writing Center.

A **compound-complex sentence** consists of **at least two independent clauses**, and **at least one dependent clause**.

Example: If someone wants to know more about dependent and independent clauses, it is possible to watch a complete mini-grammar tutorial online.

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