All sentences are labeled in one of the following four ways: **simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex.**

**A simple sentence** consists of one independent clause. An independent clause contains a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete thought.

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

**A compound sentence** consists of two or more independent clauses that are connected by a comma and a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

**Example:** Writing tutors in are friendly, and they know how to help students.

**A complex sentence** consists of an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. Using a subordinating conjunction (because, although, if, etc.) creates a dependent clause. Using 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 tutors in The Writing Center.

**Example:** The man who has the red umbrella is my uncle.

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

**Example:** If you want to know more about clauses, you can watch a video, or you can complete a mini-grammar tutorial online.

**WORKSHEET: SENTENCE STRUCTURE PRACTICE**
Directions: Label each sentence as simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex in the space provided.

1. _____ You may use the computers, handouts, and books in The Writing Center.

2. _____ Writing tutors often assist students with essay organization, but they know about sentence patterns and paragraph construction, too.

3. _____ You may use the resources in The Learning Center without an appointment, but the resources may not be removed from the room.

4. _____ For writing assistance, you can make an appointment with a writing tutor.

5. _____ Because students have individual needs, writing tutors are trained to question students in order to draw out specific needs from each student.

6. _____ If you want to draft an essay in The Writing Center, you may use one of the computers in the main room, or you may bring your own laptop computer.

7. _____ If you want to know more about citing electronic sources, you may refer to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. for detailed information, or you may refer to our handout, "MLA Works Cited: Electronic Sources," as a quick reference guide.

8. _____ In order to gain the most benefit from a writing consultation, students must be prepared for each consultation with instructions for their writing assignment, materials for taking notes during the consultation, and plenty of questions for the writing tutor.