



WRITING CENTRE

There are 4 types of grammatically correct sentences in the English language.

1. Simple Sentences
2. Compound Sentences
3. Complex Sentences
4. Compound-complex Sentences

SIMPLE SENTENCES

A simple sentence, also called an independent clause, expresses a complete thought.

Simple sentences always contain a subject and a verb.

- Sarah is in France.
- France is a beautiful country in Europe.
- Alicia goes to the library every day.

COMPOUND SENTENCES

A compound sentence has two independent clauses or sentences. The independent clauses can be joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction, or a semicolon.

- I think I will buy the red car, or I will lease the blue one.
- He ran out of money, so he had to stop playing poker.
- I am happy to take your donation; any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Coordinating Conjunctions

For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

These conjunctions are used to join two independent clauses. Use a coordinating conjunction when you want to give equal emphasis to two independent clauses.

When you connect two independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction, use a comma.

There was no ice cream in the freezer, **nor** did they have money to go to the store.

COMPLEX SENTENCES

Complex sentences contain an **independent clause** and a **dependent clause**.

A **dependant clause** is a clause that provides an **independent clause** with additional information, but which cannot stand alone as a sentence.

When the movie was over, Nick turned off the television.

*Both dependant and independent clauses contain subjects and verbs.

Subordinate Conjunctions

The essential ingredient in a complex sentence is the subordinate conjunction. The subordinate conjunction has two jobs. First, it provides a necessary transition between the two ideas in the sentence. This transition will indicate a *time*, *place*, or *cause* and effect relationship.

after	once	until
although	provided that	when
as	rather than	whenever
because	since	where
before	so that	whereas
even if	than	wherever
ethough	that	whether
if	though	while
in order that	unless	why

COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES

A compound-complex sentence is made from two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

Although I like to go camping, I haven't had the time to go lately, **and** I haven't found anyone to go with.

Independent clause: "I haven't had the time to go lately"

Independent clause: "I haven't found anyone to go with"

Dependent clause: "Although I like to go camping..."