



KINDS OF SENTENCES

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

The simple sentence has one independent clause.

EXAMPLE: The team flew to Chicago. (subject - team; verb - flew)

The team and the coach flew to Chicago and won the debate.
(compound subject - team, coach) (compound verb - flew, won)

The simple subject, then, can have more than one subject and more than one verb, but it has only one clause. This group of words is called an **independent clause**.

NOTE: At this point, you must review dependent and independent clauses by consulting a good handbook, or you will have trouble understanding the four kinds of sentences.

THE COMPOUND SENTENCE CONTAINS TWO OR MORE INDEPENDENT CLAUSES JOINED BY COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS OR SEMICOLONS.

There are seven coordinating conjunctions to memorize:
and, but, for, or so, yet, or nor.

EXAMPLE OF A COMPOUND SENTENCE JOINED BY A CONJUNCTION:

The art gallery on campus has closed for the day, but it will reopen tomorrow morning.

(first independent clause's subject - gallery, verb - has closed)

(second independent clause's subject - it, verb- will reopen)

EXAMPLE OF A COMPOUND SENTENCE JOINED BY A SEMICOLON:

The art gallery on campus has closed for the day; it will open tomorrow morning. (You know, of course, that the subjects and verbs stay the same as they were in the first example.)

A COMPLEX SENTENCE CONSISTS OF ONE INDEPENDENT CLAUSE AND ONE OR MORE DEPENDENT CLAUSES.

EXAMPLE: Although the gallery has closed for the day, it will open again tomorrow morning.

(dependent clause = Although the gallery has closed for the day; subject galley, verb -has closed)

(independent clause = it will open again tomorrow; subject - it, verb - will open)

A COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE IS A COMPOUND SENTENCE WITH ONE OR MORE DEPENDENT CLAUSES.

EXAMPLE: When the gallery closed for the day, the docent turned off the lights off, and she placed the sign on the door.

(dependent clause = When the gallery closed for the day; subj - gallery, verb - closed)

(first independent clause = the docent turned the lights off; subject - docent, verb - turned)

(second independent clause = she placed the sign on the door; subj - she, verb - placed)

PRACTICE EXERCISES

Directions: Identify each of the following sentences as simple (S), compound (CD), complex (CX), or compound-complex (CC).

1. _____ The novels of Mark Twain are well known.
2. _____ The lights in Springfield went out when lightening hit the power line, but JEA restored service in less than an hour.
3. _____ The art auctioneer stepped to the podium, and then he asked his assistant to describe the first painting to be sold.
4. _____ Fish swim in underground streams beneath the Sahara Desert.
5. _____ The LAC was especially quiet on Friday, and many of the students seemed to be dozing.
6. _____ When we flew out of Jacksonville, the sky was clear, but when we got to Atlanta, the clouds were dark and eerie.
7. _____ The traffic barely moved; each car seemed to be attached to the cars before it and after it like a single segment in an earthworm.
8. _____ Before we could move into the building, the inspectors had to examine each floor, and the fire department had to check the sprinkler system.
9. _____ The home is the oldest institution in the world.
10. _____ The hummingbird is the only bird that can fly backward.
11. _____ The United States and Russia were the first countries to develop the atomic bomb.
11. _____ Those people who do not respect the rights of others are selfish.
12. _____ I had misplaced my keys, but fortunately I had another set hidden beside the door.
13. _____ When one fails a test, it can be frustrating, and it can prove to be a real disappointment.
14. _____ My son Carl will be getting married next March.
15. _____ Although the party was fun, I stayed out too late and felt awful the next day.
16. _____ James backpacked, camped, fished, hunted, swam and skied but never found time for his schoolwork.
17. _____ Skip and Nancy worked on that project through many nights but didn't seem to get tired of one another's company or the work.
18. _____ Though Alfred is a hard worker, he doesn't seem to get promoted.
19. _____ The girls drove their parents crazy because of sibling rivalry; each was always whining that nothing was fair.
20. _____ Jamie, who is an aspiring novelist, has just sold her first short story.

ANSWERS FOR KINDS OF SENTENCES

1. S
2. CC
3. CD
4. S
5. CD
6. CC
7. CD
8. CC
9. S
10. CX
11. S
12. CX
13. CD
14. CC
15. S
16. CX
17. S
18. S
19. CX
20. CX