

Understanding proper sentence construction entails being familiar with the grammatical foundation of the English language. You will be a more skilled writer if you have a firm grasp on the sentence forms you use. We shall discuss the four types of sentence structures in this article, along with their definitions and usage examples.

## **BASIC SENTENCE STRUCTURE**

### **First, let us define sentence structure**

It is likely that, unless you are an English major, you have not studied language grammar in a while. You may be able to write and speak in entire phrases, but that is only the first stage.

Understanding what sounds right and understanding why it sounds right are two very different levels of proficiency.

So think of this as a quick refresher course in sentence structure. Before we go into the different forms, let us establish what we mean by English sentence structure.

## **SENTENCE STRUCTURE DEFINITION**

### **What is Sentence Structure?**

The subject, predicate, and occasionally direct or indirect objects of a sentence are placed together according to sentence structure. The guidelines for constructing a sentence are basic yet firm. They include the requirements that each sentence have a subject, predicate, and object (in that sequence). Prepositions and dependent clauses are additional components that can be added after that. These components can be woven together to form increasingly complex structures in advanced phrases. Sentence structure is classified into four categories (listed below).

### **Types of Sentence Structure:**

- Simple
- Compound
- Complex
- Compound-complex

# Sentence structures

Simple	Compound
Complex	Compound-complex

## STRUCTURE EXAMPLES

Now that we have tackled “what is sentence structure,” let us look more in depth at its different types.

### Simple Sentences

Simple structures are the most fundamental kind of English sentences. This occurs when a sentence is made up of just one **independent clause**, a phrase that communicates a full concept and has a subject (the noun performing the action of the sentence) and a predicate (the action being taken). Like other sentences, it may also have an indirect object (a noun that receives the action of the sentence) or a direct object (the object for whom the action is being done).

A few simple sentence examples

1. I like to read books.
2. The cat sat on the mat.
3. She is a doctor.
4. The sun is shining.
5. He plays guitar.
6. They went to the store.
7. She cooked dinner.
8. He ran in the park.
9. The dog barked loudly.
10. I woke up early today.

### Compound Sentences

A compound sentence is a sentence that contains two or more independent clauses, which are complete sentences that can stand alone. These independent clauses are usually joined together by a coordinating conjunction (or, and, but, yet, for, nor, so) or a semicolon (;).

In a compound sentence, each independent clause expresses a distinct idea or thought, but they are related to each other and are used to convey a more complex or complete message. Compound sentences are often used in both written and spoken language to convey complex ideas or to create more varied and interesting writing. They can also be used to emphasize a point or to create a sense of balance or contrast between the independent clauses.

Remember this acronym FANBOYS to identify or use coordinating conjunctions in writing.

F - for  
A - and  
N - nor  
B - but  
O - or  
Y - yet  
S - so

Here are some examples:

1. I wanted to go to the concert, but I could not get a ticket.
2. He studied hard, so he passed the exam.
3. He does not like to eat vegetables, but he knows they are good for him.
4. The weather was bad, but we decided to go for a walk anyway.
5. I have a headache, and I need to take some medicine.
6. She loves to read, and she always has a book with her.
7. They went to the beach, and they had a great time swimming and sunbathing.
8. He was tired from working all day, so he went to bed early.
9. The restaurant was full, so we went to another one.
10. I love pizza, but I try not to eat it too often.

Notice how all of these sentences could be broken into two: "She loves to read. She always has a book with her." "He studied hard. He passed the exam." That is because these sentences contain two independent clauses, which can be turned into simple sentences.

## **Complex Sentences**

Complex sentences are made up of an independent clause and a dependent clause. Because it is an incomplete thought, a dependent clause must be joined to an independent clause ("Despite I was severely ill,... " Since he was away," etc.). It also goes by the name of a subordinate clause.

In a complex sentence, the dependent clause provides additional information about the independent clause. The dependent clause is introduced by a subordinating conjunction (e.g., although, because, if, when, while) that shows the relationship between the two clauses. Complex sentences allow for more complex and nuanced communication than simple or compound sentences, as they allow for

the expression of complex ideas and relationships between ideas. They are commonly used in both written and spoken language, and their use can help to create more varied and interesting writing.

Some complex structure examples:

1. Although I was tired, I stayed up late to finish my project.
2. Because it was raining, we decided to stay indoors.
3. After he finished his homework, he went to bed.
4. Even though she studied hard, she did not do well on the test.
5. Since I have to work tomorrow, I cannot go out tonight.
6. While I was driving to work, I saw an accident on the side of the road.
7. As soon as the concert ended, we left the venue.
8. Because she missed the bus, she had to walk to school.
9. Although he had a lot of money, he was not happy.
10. After the movie was over, we went out for dinner.

Here are some examples of subordinating conjunctions:

After, although, as, as if, because, before, if, even if, in order that, since, so that, than, though, unless, until, when, where, whereas, while.

When a subordinating conjunction is used to join two clauses, the clause that begins with the subordinating conjunction is the dependent clause and cannot stand alone as a complete sentence, while the other clause is the independent clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence.

## Compound-Complex Sentences

True to their name, compound-complex sentences combine the ideas behind both compound and complex sentences: they contain at least two independent clauses and a dependent clause. Because they can be pretty hard to deconstruct, I have color coded the independent clauses, the coordinating conjunction/semicolon, and the dependent clauses. Let us take a look:

- Because he was injured, the team played with a short bench and their rivals beat them soundly.
- I wondered what became of him; if he liked Chicago so much, it made no sense for him to up and leave.
- The teacher gave Jimmy a time-out because of his bad behavior and we all laughed at him, reveling in the chaos he had wrought.
  1. Although I wanted to stay up late to finish my project, I was too tired, so I went to bed early, but I still woke up feeling exhausted.

2. He wanted to go to the beach, but she preferred to go to the mountains, so they compromised by going to a lake where they could swim and hike.
3. After he finished his workout, he went to the store to buy some groceries, and he ran into an old friend from high school who he had not seen in years.
4. She studied hard for her exam, but she still felt nervous, so she went for a walk to clear her head, and she ended up running into her professor who gave her some last-minute tips.
5. Because he missed his flight, he had to rebook his trip, and he ended up spending an extra day in the city, where he visited some museums and explored some new neighborhoods.

**Exercise:** Categorize the type of the sentences structure and the dependent and the independent clauses.

1. After the change in senior management, the company failed miserably.
2. Scientists believe that Covid is going to stay with us for at least few years.
3. Despite opposition from the overworked train drivers, the transport department is planning to bring back trains under repair to ease crowding, a move snowballing into a controversy, with some politicians jumping on to the side of drivers.
4. Despite opposition from the overworked train drivers, the transport department is planning to bring back trains that have been under repair to ease crowding, a move, with some politicians jumping on to the side of drivers.
5. While watching television, I had my dinner.
6. Although groomed in the best possible way, the tycoon's son struggled to take the business any further.
7. Exasperated by the pigeons dirtying my balcony, I installed a protective net.
8. Tom lives in the town I live in.
9. After coming back from the office, I proceeded to take bath.
10. The helicopter went down apparently because of bad weather and misjudgement on part of the pilot.