

Types of Sentences :

Independent clause: An independent clause can stand alone as a sentence. It contains a subject and a verb and is a complete idea.

I like spaghetti.

He reads many books.

Dependent clause: A dependent clause is not a complete sentence. It must be attached to an independent clause to become complete. This is also known as a subordinate clause. Although I like spaghetti,...

Because he reads many books,...

1- Simple Sentences

A simple sentence contains a subject and a verb, and it may also have an object and modifiers. However, it contains only **one independent clause**. Here are a few examples:

The train was late.

He exercises every morning.

2- Compound Sentences

A compound sentence contains **at least two independent clauses**. These two independent clauses can be combined with a **comma** and a **coordinating conjunction** or with a **semicolon**. Here are a few examples:

The sun is shining ; it's a beautiful day.

She loves her job, **yet** she complains a lot.

3- Complex Sentences

A complex sentence contains **at least one independent clause** and **at least one dependent clause**. Dependent clauses can refer to the subject (who, which) the sequence/time (since, while), or the causal elements (because, if) of the independent clause.

If a sentence begins with a dependent clause, note the comma after this clause. If, on the other hand, the sentence begins with an independent clause, there is not a comma separating the two clauses. Here are a few examples:

They studied grammar for many hours as it was very interesting.

Note that there is no comma in this sentence because it begins with an independent clause.

Because she was sick, she missed school, which was disappointing.

Note the comma in this sentence because it begins with a dependent clause.

4- Compound-Complex Sentences

Sentence types can also be combined. A compound-complex sentence contains at least **two independent clauses** and at least **one dependent clause**.

- **Even if I was tired**, I finished my homework, and I rewarded myself with a movie.
- **When the sun sets**, the sky turns a beautiful shade of orange, and the stars begin to twinkle.

Using some complex-compound sentences in writing allows for more sentence variety. Pay close attention to comma usage in complex-compound sentences so that the reader is easily able to follow the intended meaning.