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### **III/ Types of Sentences**

A new sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with punctuation (a period, a question mark, or an exclamation point).

**He** obtained his degree.

A sentence must have a complete idea that stands alone. This is also called an **independent clause**.

**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:

She wrote.

He completed her literature review.

#### **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:

She completed her literature review, and she created her reference list.

He organized his sources by theme; then, he updated his reference list.

They studied APA rules for many hours, but they realized there was still much to learn.

#### **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:

Although she completed her literature review, she still needed to work on her methods section.

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

Because he organized his sources by theme, it was easier for his readers to follow.

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

They studied APA rules for many hours as they were so interesting.

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

She completed her literature review, but she still needs to work on her methods section even though she finished her methods course last semester.

Although he organized his sources by theme, he decided to arrange them chronologically, and he carefully followed the MEAL plan for organization.

With pizza and soda at hand, they studied APA rules for many hours, and they decided that writing in APA made sense because it was clear, concise, and objective.

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.