

TYPES OF SENTENCES

FIRSTLY, WHAT IS A SENTENCE?

A sentence is a group of words, which expresses a statement, question, command, or wish. Sentences contain a **subject** and **main verb**. In written English, the first word of a sentence is capitalized and the sentence ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation point.

SIMPLE SENTENCES

A **simple sentence**, (also called an *independent clause*), contains a subject and a verb, and it expresses a complete thought.

EXAMPLE

The subject Owls hunt at night.
verb

COMPOUND SENTENCES

A **compound sentence** contains two or more main clauses, which are normally joined by a conjunction (such as *and* or *but*).

EXAMPLE

I ate seafood and John ate pizza. See how the two clauses are simple sentences themselves?
conjunction

COMPLEX SENTENCES

A **complex sentence** has an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses (or *subordinate clauses*), which cannot stand alone.

EXAMPLE

After she had finished, she noticed the error.
This clause cannot stand alone - it modifies the main clause. The is the main (independent) clause

COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES

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

EXAMPLE

Dependent clause
Although I like chocolate, I don't like chocolate mousse,
but I do drink hot chocolate.
conjunction Independent clauses