

The logo of Loughborough English Academy, featuring a stylized white graphic of a building or mountain peak on the left, and the text 'LOUGHBOROUGH ENGLISH ACADEMY' in a light yellow serif font on the right.

Simple , Compound and Complex sentences

✱ **Types of Sentences Based on Structure**

◆ **1. Simple Sentence**

✓ **Definition:**

A simple sentence is a sentence that contains one independent clause.

An independent clause has a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought.

✓ **Key Features:**

- *One main idea.*
- *No dependent or subordinate clause.*
- *May have a compound subject or compound verb, but still one clause only.*

✓ **Structure:**

- *Subject + Verb (+ Object/Complement)*

✓ Examples:

1. *The dog barked.*
2. *She sings beautifully.*
3. *John and Mary play tennis every weekend.*
4. *The teacher explained the lesson clearly.*
5. *My father and I went to the grocery store.*

💡 Tip:

- ▶ *Don't confuse length with sentence type. A long sentence can still be simple if it has just one independent clause*

◆ 2. Compound Sentence

✓ Definition:

A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses that are joined by:

- A coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS)
- A semicolon (;)
- A comma + coordinating conjunction

✓ Coordinating Conjunctions (FANBOYS):

- For - reason
- And - addition
- Nor - negative addition
- But - contrast
- Or - choice
- Yet - contrast
- So - result

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✓ Structure:

- Independent Clause + FANBOYS + Independent Clause
- Independent Clause ; Independent Clause

✓ Examples:

1. I finished my homework, and I went out to play.
2. It was late, but she still wanted to go for a walk.
3. He didn't study, so he failed the test.
4. She can speak French, or she can speak Spanish.
5. I came early; the meeting had not started yet.

💡 Tip:

- ▶ Each clause in a compound sentence can stand alone as a complete sentence.

◆ 3. Complex Sentence

✓ Definition:

A complex sentence has one independent clause and at least one dependent (subordinate) clause.

✓ Dependent Clause:

A dependent clause has a subject and a verb, but it does not express a complete thought on its own.

It needs the independent clause to make complete sense.

✓ Common Subordinating Conjunctions:

- Time: when, after, before, while, until
- Cause/Effect: because, since, as
- Condition: if, unless, provided that
- Contrast: although, though, even though, whereas
- Purpose: so that, in order that

✓ Structure:

- Independent Clause + Subordinating Conjunction + Dependent Clause
- Subordinating Conjunction + Dependent Clause + , + Independent Clause

✓ Examples:

1. Because it was raining, we stayed indoors.
2. I will call you when I reach home.
3. Although she was tired, she completed her project.
4. He couldn't attend the party since he was sick.
5. You can't go out unless you finish your homework.

💡 Tip:

- ▶ If the dependent clause comes before the independent clause, use a comma.
If it comes after, no comma is needed.

► Comparison Chart

Sentence Type	Clause Type(s)	Key Words	Examples
Simple	1 Independent	-	I like pizza.
Compound	2+ Independent	and, but, or, so, yet, etc.	I like pizza, and she likes pasta.
Complex	1 Independent + 1+ Dependent	because, although, if, when, etc.	I stayed home because it was raining.

Identify the Sentence Type

Instructions: Read each sentence and write whether it is Simple, Compound, or Complex.

1. I went to the store.
2. She was tired, but she finished her homework.
3. Because the sun was shining, we went for a picnic.
4. The children are playing in the park.
5. He studied hard, so he passed the test.
6. I'll call you when I get home.
7. My cat sleeps on the couch all day.
8. She sang and danced at the party.
9. Since it was cold, I wore a jacket.
10. They tried to help, but it was too late.

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Transform & Combine

Instructions: Complete the following tasks as instructed.

Part A - Transform the sentence as directed.

1. (Simple to Compound)

Original: I woke up early. I was still late.

Your Sentence:

2. (Compound to Complex)

Original: He was late, so he missed the bus.

Your Sentence:

3. (Complex to Simple)

Original: Because she was tired, she went to bed early.

Your Sentence:

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Part B - Combine the following pairs into one sentence.

4. The sky is dark. It might rain. (Compound)
5. She didn't come to the party. She wasn't invited. (Complex)
6. I like chocolate. I like vanilla. (Simple with compound object)
7. He studied all night. He failed the exam. (Compound with contrast)
8. I was sleeping. The phone rang. (Complex)
9. She enjoys reading. She reads every evening. (Simple or Complex - your choice)
10. They ran fast. They missed the train. (Your choice of sentence type)

Creative Writing Challenge

1. Simple Sentence - Describe a thunderstorm in one powerful simple sentence.
2. Compound Sentence - Create a sentence about a character making a difficult choice using “but” or “yet”.
3. Complex Sentence - Begin with “Although it was dangerous, ...”
4. Complex Sentence - End with “... because I believed in myself.”
5. Compound Sentence - Write a sentence that shows cause and effect using “so”.
6. Simple Sentence - Write a sentence about a discovery.
7. Complex Sentence - Use a dependent clause that starts with “when”.
8. Compound Sentence - Use both “and” and “but” to show contrast and addition.
9. Creative Combo - Write one paragraph (3-4 sentences) that includes all three types of sentences.
10. Mix-Up - Write three separate sentences about your favorite memory, one of each type (label them).

Sentence Expansion & Variation

Instruction

1. Turn this idea into a simple sentence:

Idea: A boy found a treasure on the beach and exclaimed.

2. Turn this into a compound sentence:

Idea: A storm came. The villagers took shelter.

3. Turn this into a complex sentence:

Idea: She forgot her umbrella. It rained heavily.

4. Write a single idea using a simple sentence that includes a prepositional phrase.

5. Write a compound sentence where both clauses have opposite emotions.

(Hint: Use "but" or "yet")

Sentence Expansion & Variation

Instruction

1. Write a complex sentence starting with “If I had known...”
2. Write a complex sentence using a clause of purpose (e.g., “so that...”)
3. Expand this sentence into a compound-complex structure:
Base: I missed the train.
4. Write a sentence that contains a simile and is a complex sentence.
5. Write a short paragraph (4-5 lines) using all three types of sentences. Underline one of each.

Sentence Analysis & Creative Rewriting

1. Identify the sentence type and rewrite it as a different type:

Original: I opened the door. The dog ran inside.

Rewrite as a Complex Sentence:

2. Change the following compound sentence to a simple sentence:

Original: She ran to the bus stop, and she caught the bus just in time.

3. Change this complex sentence to a compound sentence:

Original: Although he was tired, he continued practicing.

4. Create a creative compound-complex sentence based on this idea:

Idea: A cat chased a mouse. It started raining. The mouse escaped.

5. Write a sentence with three independent clauses joined correctly.

Sentence Analysis & Creative Rewriting

1. Write a complex sentence with a relative clause (starting with who/which/that).
2. Write a sentence that starts with a dependent clause and ends with an independent clause, describing something mysterious.
3. Rewrite this simple sentence into a detailed compound sentence:
Original: The teacher smiled.
4. Write one sentence using both a compound and a complex structure. Label the clauses.
5. Write a story opening (3-4 lines) using at least one sentence of each type. Underline and label them.