

# TYPES OF SENTENCES

## INTRO

There are four types of sentence structure that you should employ in your academic writing. Varying your sentence structure will make your writing flow more smoothly and clearly show relationship between ideas. Using only one type of sentence structure makes your writing weaker and repetitive.

## SIMPLE

Simple sentences communicate simple statements and facts.

A simple sentence is the basic form of a sentence. It begins with a subject(s) which is followed by a verb(s) in one complete thought known as an independent clause.

(**Subject** *Verb*)

- i. The **man** *waited* for the train.
- ii. **John and Tim** *ate* lunch together.
- iii. The **professor** *discussed* the topic with the students *provided* answer to their questions.

## COMPOUND

Compound sentences can be used when you are relating two ideas such as demonstrating a cause and effect relationship.

A compound sentence is a sentence made up of two or more independent clauses which could stand alone as individual sentences. The two independent clauses are connected by a comma and conjunction or semicolon. Conjunctions include words such as: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so [F.A.N.B.O.Y.S.]

(**Subject** *Verb* Comma + Conjunction)

- i. The soccer **player** *dribbled* the ball past the defender and *shot* the ball, for **he** *used* great footwork.
- ii. The **businessman** *was not able* to close the deal, but **he** *was able* to retain the customer.
- iii. The **weather** *was* beautiful; **hikers** *were climbing* the mountain.

## COMPLEX

Complex sentences can be used when you have contrasting, clarifying, or modifying, or relevant thoughts.

A complex sentence is made up of an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. A dependent clause cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Dependent clauses begin with subordinating conjunctions, which include words like: after, although, as, because, before, even though, if, since, though, unless, until, when, while...

(**Dependent clauses**, and independent clauses)

- i. **Although the weather was forecasted to be clear**, storm clouds filled the sky.
- ii. Certain diseases were untreatable, **until scientist discovered Penicillin**.
- iii. **Unless students have studied adequately for the test**, they will receive a failing grade, **even if they have attended all the lectures**.

## COMPOUND-COMPLEX

Compound-complex sentences should be used to give a varied writing structure that expresses and elaborates multiple ideas.

A compound-complex sentences is a combination of a two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

(**Dependent clauses**, and independent clauses)

- i. The end of the semester is stressful for many students, **but students who plan ahead can avoid much of the stress**, **even if they are taking difficult courses**.
- ii. The completion of the transcontinental railroad made the West more accessible, **and although it still took weeks to travel there**, people by the millions settled in towns and cities across the west.
- iii. **If athletes condition their bodies**, they will improve their abilities, and they will be less prone to injury, **although they can never completely eliminate its risk**.