

TYPES OF SENTENCES

Good writing uses a variety of sentence patterns, lengths, and rhythms. One way to make sure you are not always using the same sentence structure and length is to use different sentence types. There are four types:

SIMPLE SENTENCE

A simple sentence has one independent clause.

EXAMPLE:

Brent listened to his favorite band's newest song.

COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence contains two independent clauses that are joined together by either a coordinating conjunction, a conjunctive adverb, or a semi-colon.

EXAMPLES:

I wanted to go to school, but I woke up feeling sick.

I did not study; consequently, I failed the test.

I didn't see the step; I've now got a bandage on my head.

COMPLEX SENTENCE

A complex sentence contains at least one independent clause and one dependent clause.

The dependent clause cannot stand alone and is linked to the independent clause by a subordinating conjunction (a transition word that shows place, time, or cause and effect).

EXAMPLES:

Computers have changed a lot **since** they first came on the market.

When the food arrived, the children ate everything.

COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

A compound-complex sentence contains two independent clauses and one or more dependent clause.

This type of sentence is often a complex sentence joined to a simple sentence with a conjunction.

EXAMPLES:

Since we wanted to have fun, my friend and I went to the school social, and we danced all night!

The cat purred, and she bounced on the pillow as her owner filled her milk bowl.