Simple Sentences

16a. A simple sentence contains one independent clause and no subordinate clauses.

Example: Along the edge of the porch, we planted some colorful flowers.

A simple sentence may have a compound subject, a compound verb, or both.

Example: Katya and I dug four inches into the rich soil and sowed twelve grape hyacinth bulbs.

Exercise A In each of the following sentences, draw one line under each subject and two lines under each verb.

Example 1. The monkeys and apes will stay here or move on.

1. Sally and Anne both take music lessons weekly.

2. I climbed that oak tree and swam in the creek.

3. Steve helped Roseanne with the puzzle and then washed the dishes.

4. The parrot said “Cat for sale” and flapped its wings.

5. All of a sudden, Dale and Amy burst into the room and grabbed the water jug.

6. In April the company will increase its profits.

7. Kim and Ted will go to Africa with Jade and photograph wildlife.

8. Both the painting and the sketch show the meadow in the morning.

9. This one and that one will be sold at the auction tomorrow.

10. After all of the hurry and bustle, a week or two at the beach sounded wonderful.

Exercise B On each of the lines below, write your own simple sentence. Then, circle each subject and each verb.

Example 1. The sun rose and warmed the hillside.

11. 

12. 

13. 

14. 

15. 
Compound Sentences

A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses.

The clauses of a compound sentence may be joined by

- a comma and a coordinating conjunction (and, but, for, nor, or, so, or yet)
- a semicolon
- a semicolon, a conjunctive adverb, and a comma

**EXAMPLES**

Luisa Ortega is in my English class, and we have become good friends this year.

Recently, the Ortegas invited me to a campground for the weekend; I eagerly accepted the invitation.

The family brought along a large tent; however, they did not use it for sleeping.

**EXERCISE**

Underline the independent clauses in each of the following sentences. Then, write S above each subject and V above each verb.

**Example 1.** The Ortegas put their sleeping bags out under the stars, but I preferred the tent.

1. I fear all kinds of wild creatures, but the family very kindly did not tease me about my apprehensions.
2. The family’s black Labrador retriever evidently shared my fears, for he joined me in the tent.
3. In the middle of the night, I awoke to a strange sound; I immediately became frightened.
4. I was alone in the tent, for the dog had left.
5. Suddenly, the dog bounded into the tent, and within seconds the tent collapsed on top of us both!
6. The noise awoke the others, and I felt embarrassed!
7. Luisa crawled out of her sleeping bag, and together we pitched the tent again.
8. Then, Luisa returned to her sleeping bag, and I lay down on my cot in the tent.
9. Later that night, it rained, so the Ortegas ran to the tent.
10. I, along with the dog, remained dry; however, the Ortegas, in their scramble to the tent, were drenched!
Simple Sentence or Compound Sentence?

16a. A simple sentence contains one independent clause and no subordinate clauses.

16b. A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses.

Do not confuse a compound sentence with a simple sentence that contains a compound subject, a compound verb, or both.

**SIMPLE SENTENCE**

Coach Mendes and her team lost the first game of the double-header but won the second. [one independent clause with a compound subject and a compound verb]

**COMPOUND SENTENCE**

Sammi can play several instruments, but the banjo is her favorite. [two independent clauses]

EXERCISE

In each of the following sentences, draw one line under each subject and two lines under each verb. Then, on the line provided, identify the sentence by writing S for simple or C for compound.

Example 1. David Attenborough has studied many unusual creatures and has written about their unique habitats and behaviors.

1. I hurried over to Michael’s house and met Rafiq on the way.
2. The lightning struck the radio towers on the hill several times but did not damage them.
3. The blinking light grew dim, and then it flashed several times.
4. The gulls circle the fishing boat; they are hoping for a quick meal.
5. The purple lantana and the red salvia look pretty and attract both bees and butterflies.
6. After school I feed the rabbits, and Kris looks after the guinea pigs.
7. In the evening the Korean restaurant opens and welcomes crowds of hungry diners.
8. Patty and Carla are throwing Hilton a surprise party in their big backyard sometime next weekend.
9. The crab scuttled quickly into the water, for it saw a heron nearby.
10. I left, but Marcy stayed.
Complex Sentences

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

**EXAMPLE**

Even though it was a gray, rainy day, Pilar looked forward to her walk in the park.

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSE**
Pilar looked forward to her walk in the park

**SUBORDINATE CLAUSE**
Even though it was a gray, rainy day

**Exercise**

In each of the following sentences, draw one line under the independent clause and two lines under each subordinate clause. Then, write S above each subject and V above each verb.

**Example 1.** At the park, Pilar fed the ducks and swans, which quickly swam toward her.

1. Pilar looked for tiny fish and snails where the pond was shallow.
2. As she watched the fish and snails, she thought about a career in marine biology.
3. Her career plans had been all that she could think about since the Science Club took a field trip to a well-known oceanographic center.
4. Because the center was on a quiet shoreline, the scientists could study hundreds of forms of marine life.
5. Some students who had gone to the center last year had snorkeled around the tide pools.
6. Pilar became interested in Scripps Institution of Oceanography, which is a well-known oceanographic institute in San Diego, California.
7. Because her school computer had Internet access, Pilar could learn more about Scripps and marine biology.
8. First, she learned about research ships and their equipment when she looked at the Scripps Web site.
9. After she read an interview with a marine biologist, Pilar felt confident that marine biology was the career for her.
10. From the interview she learned that a marine biologist should have a good education, care about the environment, and enjoy travel.
Compound Sentence or Complex Sentence?

**16b.** A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses.

**EXAMPLE** Today, no humans live on the island, but it is still home to a wide variety of birds.

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSES**
- Today, no humans live on the island
- it is still home to a wide variety of birds

**16c.** A complex sentence contains one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause.

**EXAMPLE** Although no humans live on the island today, it is still home to a wide variety of birds.

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSE**
- it is still home to a wide variety of birds

**SUBORDINATE CLAUSE**
- Although no humans live on the island today

**EXERCISE** In each of the following sentences, draw one line under each subject and two lines under each verb. Then, on the line provided, identify the sentence by writing **Cd** for compound or **Cx** for complex.

**Example** **Cx** 1. Louisiana and Mississippi, which are two Southern states, border the Gulf of Mexico.

1. Iowa is not near any oceans, but the Mississippi River makes up its eastern border.
2. On the west coast, California borders Mexico, and Washington borders Canada.
3. Hawaii is the only state that does not lie on the North American mainland.
4. I learned that the northernmost state is Alaska.
5. Texas is quite big, but Alaska is bigger.
6. If you visit Death Valley in California, you will be 282 feet below sea level.
7. The longest river in the United States is the Missouri River; the largest lake in the United States is Lake Michigan.
8. Michigan, which resembles a mitten, sits between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.
9. I looked at a map, and then I showed Dana my home state.
10. Dana lived in Canada before her family moved to New York, where her mother taught English.
Compound-Complex Sentences

A compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause.

**Example**
Matt would have broken the school record, but he stumbled when his right foot hit the last hurdle in the race.

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSES**
Matt would have broken the school record
he stumbled

**SUBORDINATE CLAUSE**
when his right foot hit the last hurdle in the race

**Exercise**
In each of the following sentences, draw one line under every independent clause and two lines under every subordinate clause. Then, write S above each subject and V above each verb.

**Example 1.** When Thora Andersen came to this country, she enjoyed her new freedom, but she also worked very hard.

1. Cece went to Chile during the winter vacation, but her older brother stayed home because he had made plans with some friends.

2. When Mr. Tolstoi entered the United States, he knew only a few words of English, but his wife was fluent in the language.

3. The two young men had avoided injuries because they had worn their seat belts, but the driver of the other car was not as fortunate.

4. Vegetarians, who do not eat meat, should watch their diets; they should eat nutritionally balanced meals.

5. Although both were tired, Ahnawake went to her soccer practice, and Carl went to his piano lesson.

6. The two dogs barked at each other constantly until the sun rose; consequently, none of us got much sleep last night.

7. You should shut the gate whenever you leave the backyard; otherwise, the dogs may get out.

8. When we went to the science museum, we attended a lecture on electricity; after the lecture, we visited some of the exhibits.

9. As we left the library, the rain pelted down, so we rushed back inside.

10. Aunt Eudora was born in Nashville, but when she was five years old, she and her family moved to Memphis, where she lived for the rest of her life.
Complex or Compound-Complex?

16c. A complex sentence contains one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause.

**EXAMPLE** Although Emma is a talented singer, she did not audition for the eighth grade's musical play.

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** she did not audition for the eighth grade's musical play

**SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** Although Emma is a talented singer

16d. A compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause.

**EXAMPLE** Emma is a talented singer, but she did not audition for the eighth grade's musical play because she needed more time for her studies.

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSES**
- Emma is a talented singer
- she did not audition for the eighth grade's musical play

**SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** because she needed more time for her studies

**EXERCISE** In each of the following sentences, draw one line under each subject and two lines under each verb. Then, on the line provided, identify the sentence by writing Cx for complex or Cd-Cx for compound-complex.

Example 16d. Cx 1. I believe that my birthstone is the sapphire; Roseanne’s is the opal.

1. A gem is a mineral or other material that is used in jewelry and other ornaments.
2. Some of the gems that you see are natural; others are artificial.
3. Laney said that scientists can make sapphires, rubies, and emeralds in laboratories.
4. Some gems occur in igneous rock, which forms when hot, molten material cools.
5. Other gems occur in metamorphic rock, which forms under great heat and pressure; still others occur in sedimentary rock, which typically forms when water, wind, or ice deposits sand, gravel, and other materials.
6. I asked Mr. Catalano whether pearls are made by oysters, and he said yes.
7. When light travels through a well-cut diamond, the diamond glitters with different colors.
8. The type of gem cut that is called the brilliant cut has fifty-eight facets.
9. Diamonds are very valuable because they are very durable and brilliant, but some emeralds are even more valuable.
10. Perhaps the most beautiful of all pearls is La Pellegrina, which is from India.
Review A: Classifying Sentences According to Structure

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, draw one line under every independent clause and two lines under every subordinate clause. Then, on the line provided, classify the sentence by writing *S* for *simple, Cd* for *compound, Cx* for *complex,* or *Cd-Cx* for *compound-complex.*

**Example**  

1. Many of the novels that Agatha Christie wrote have been made into films.

1. Suspense novels are extremely popular, and many readers especially enjoy those by Agatha Christie.

2. Christie’s first detective novel was *The Mysterious Affair at Styles.*

3. Hercule Poirot, who is perhaps her most famous character, is the Belgian detective who solves the murder cases in many of her books.

4. In *Murder on the Orient Express,* Poirot expertly interrogates many of the passengers on the train before he solves the case.

5. Miss Marple, another detective of Christie’s, is my favorite character.


7. In this mystery several people are suspects, for each has a possible motive, but Miss Marple sets an ingenious trap for the murderer.

8. When I visited England last summer, I saw *The Mousetrap,* a suspense play by Christie, and I also toured her home in Devon.

9. Because the clues in *The Mousetrap* were hidden so well, the ending surprised nearly everyone in the audience.

10. Currently, I am reading *Death on the Nile*; I have not seen the movie yet.

**EXERCISE B** Classify each of the following sentences by writing on the line provided *S* for *simple, Cd* for *compound, Cx* for *complex,* or *Cd-Cx* for *compound-complex.*

**Example**  

1. Do you know what the principal cause of most forest fires is?

11. I will make the salad if you will make the lemonade.

12. Amy, who is a three-year-old with an odd sense of humor, sometimes hides in strange places; yesterday I found her in the broom closet.

13. What kinds of tricks does your dog do, Darren?

14. The person in the middle is my cousin Josie, and the one to her left is Uncle Timothy.

15. When I have finished all of my chores, I will sit outside for a while and read.
Review B: Classifying Sentences According to Structure

**EXERCISE A**  In each of the following sentences, draw one line under every independent clause and two lines under every subordinate clause. Then, on the line provided, classify the sentence by writing **S** for simple, **Cd** for compound, **Cx** for complex, or **Cd-Cx** for compound-complex.

**Example**   

1. Did you know that some bored surfers created the sport of skateboarding?

   

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1. If you are a surfer, you may enjoy skateboarding, for the sport is similar to surfing.

2. Some skateboards are made from wood; others are made from plastic or fiberglass.

3. At first, skateboards had roller-skate wheels, but today’s boards have special wheels that are much easier to control.

4. I bought an inexpensive skateboard and customized it.

5. When the skater shifts his or her weight, the board turns.

6. My brother taught me how to skate.

7. Some skaters practice every day, but I practice only on weekends.

8. When you skate, you should wear kneepads, elbow pads, and a helmet.

9. Schools in my area often sponsor contests for skateboarders; in fact, Lakeside Middle School is holding a contest this Saturday.

10. I will not compete in the contest, but I will watch my brother as he competes.

**EXERCISE B**  Classify each of the following sentences by writing on the line provided **S** for simple, **Cd** for compound, **Cx** for complex, or **Cd-Cx** for compound-complex.

**Example**   

1. Tyrone and I saw a horror movie together.

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11. Some scenes in the movie became too scary for me; consequently, I excused myself and went to the lobby.

12. I think that many people in the audience left during the scariest scenes.

13. At one point Tyrone got the hiccups and rushed out for some water.

14. At times while Tyrone was gone, I turned my head away from the screen and closed my eyes, but I still saw the ugly monster with the glaring yellow eyes.

15. As we rushed out of the theater to meet our parents, both Tyrone and I said that we could hardly wait to see the sequel.
Review C: Classifying Sentences According to Structure

**EXERCISE**  On the lines provided, write your own sentences, using a variety of sentence structures. Circle each subject and each verb. Then, classify each sentence as *simple, compound, complex*, or *compound-complex*.

**Example 1.** Lynette and I will study math as soon as we get back from soccer practice.—Complex

1. ____________________________________________________________
   - Subject: ________  Verb: ________  Classification: ________

2. ____________________________________________________________
   - Subject: ________  Verb: ________  Classification: ________

3. ____________________________________________________________
   - Subject: ________  Verb: ________  Classification: ________

4. ____________________________________________________________
   - Subject: ________  Verb: ________  Classification: ________

5. ____________________________________________________________
   - Subject: ________  Verb: ________  Classification: ________

6. ____________________________________________________________
   - Subject: ________  Verb: ________  Classification: ________

7. ____________________________________________________________
   - Subject: ________  Verb: ________  Classification: ________

8. ____________________________________________________________
   - Subject: ________  Verb: ________  Classification: ________

9. ____________________________________________________________
   - Subject: ________  Verb: ________  Classification: ________

10. ____________________________________________________________
    - Subject: ________  Verb: ________  Classification: ________