

Sentence Structures

Definitions
and
Sentence Practice

Definitions of Phrase, Clause, and Sentence

- **Phrase** = group of words **WITHOUT** a subject and verb
- **Clause** = group of words **WITH** a subject and verb
- **Sentence** = group of words with a subject and verb that forms a complete thought that makes sense

2 Types of Clauses

- **Independent (or Main) Clause** = contains a subject and verb and makes sense alone
- **Dependent (or Subordinate) Clause** = contains a subject and verb but does not make sense alone

3 Types of Dependent Clauses

- **Adjective Clause** = contains a subject and verb and describes a noun
 - Begins with who, whom, which, that, whose
- **Adverb Clause** = contains a subject and verb and describes a verb, adjective, or adverb
 - Begins with a subordinating conjunction
- **Noun Clause** = contains a subject and verb and functions as the subject, direct object, object of a preposition, predicate nominative, or appositive
 - Begins with that, what, whatever, who, which, whoever, etc.

Examples of Subordinating Conjunctions

- After
- Although
- As
- When
- While
- Until
- Because
- Before
- If
- Since

Simple Sentence

- Contains one independent clause
- Example:
 - Reading thrills my mind.

Compound Sentence

- Contains two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction
- Coordinating conjunctions
 - and, but, or, nor, so, for, yet
- Example:
 - Reading thrills my mind, and music dances in my soul.

Complex Sentence

- Contains one independent clause and one or more dependent (subordinate) clauses
- Example:
 - While reading thrills my mind, music dances in my soul.

Compound-Complex Sentence

- Contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent (subordinate) clauses
- Example:
 - While reading thrills my mind, music dances in my soul; and my heart expands with joy.

Sentence Practice

- Read each of the following sentences and determine which sentence structure each represents.

Compound Sentence

- Many students want to attend college, but very few can afford the tuition.

Complex Sentence

- If students get a loan, they will be in debt.

Complex Sentence

- After they graduate, they must pay back the loan.

Simple Sentence

- How many years will it take to pay back the money?

Simple Sentence

- One student, a graduate of Rock Falls High School, needed twenty years to be free of debt.

Compound-Complex Sentence

- Your parents may help you, but since college is expensive, you may still need a loan.

Complex Sentence

- I hope that you will all succeed in school.

Simple Sentence

- The basketball coach wants us to win the game.

Complex Sentence

- After we win the game, we will go out for pizza.

Compound-Complex Sentence

- Since I ate too much pizza, I did not feel well, and I knew that I should lie down to rest.

Compound Sentence

- I went to the doctor, and he told me to eat better food.

Simple Sentence

- After seeing the doctor, I went to the grocery store to buy more fruits and vegetables.

Review Sentence Structure

How many clauses of each type in each type of sentence?

- **Simple Sentence**
 - 1 independent, 0 dependent
- **Compound Sentence**
 - 2 independent, 0 dependent
- **Complex Sentence**
 - 1 independent, 1 or more dependent
- **Compound-Complex Sentence**
 - 2 independent, 1 or more dependent

Complex Sentence

- Can we please go sledding before the snow melts?

Compound-Complex Sentence

- Sarah believes that the hill in the park will be perfect for sledding, but Tabitha does not agree because the hill in the park is not steep enough for a long sled run.

Complex Sentence

- Before we go sledding, we should put on warmer clothes so that we do not freeze.

Complex Sentence

- Sarah may become ill if she gets too wet while she is sledding.

Simple Sentence

- After two hours of sledding in the park, Tabitha wanted to go home and get warm.

Simple Sentence

- At the end of the summer every year, John spends time with his grandparents on their farm in Nebraska and then returns just in time for the start of school.

Compound-Complex Sentence

- While John is with his grandparents, he is expected to help with the chores around the farm, so he must unload bales of hay and feed the cattle.

Compound Sentence

- One day he had to unload 1500 bales of hay, and he had to haul 5 loads of manure.

Compound Sentence

- After a week of hard work at his grandparents' farm, John came home, and he slept for twelve hours.

Simple Sentence

- During the dance many of the girls gathered in the corner of the gym, hoping for a boy to notice them.

Complex Sentence

- Shelly, who wondered if any of the boys were actually watching them, peeked over her shoulder.

Compound-Complex Sentence

- Since Beth was dating Brendon, she was one of the girls who had a date; unfortunately for Beth, Brendon did not like to dance.

Compound Sentence

- Finally, Joe asked Amanda to dance, and she happily accepted his invitation.

Simple Sentence

- At the end of the driveway, I saw a wandering, lost dog.

Complex Sentence

- Because I was concerned that the dog would be hit by a car, I decided to lock it in my yard until its owner came to look for it.

Complex Sentence

- Wagging his tail, the dog ate the food that I offered him.

Compound Sentence

- After three days I decided to run an ad in the newspaper to try to find the dog's owner, but no one answered the ad to claim the dog.

Compound-Complex Sentence

- Since no one claimed the dog, I decided to adopt him, and I named him Charlie.