



Sentences : Simple, Compound and Complex

Introduction

Sentences can be classified into three main types based on their structure:

- Simple Sentence
- Compound Sentence
- Complex Sentence

Understanding these sentence types helps in improving sentence formation, writing clarity, and grammar accuracy.

Simple Sentence

A simple sentence contains only one finite verb and only one clause.

Key Features:

- It may be short or long.
- It may have a compound subject (two or more subjects).
- It may have a compound object (two or more objects).
- It expresses a complete thought.

Examples:

- I spoke to him in English. (One verb: spoke)
- Jack and Jill climbed the hill. (Compound subject)
- Nisha ate a mango and an apple. (Compound object)

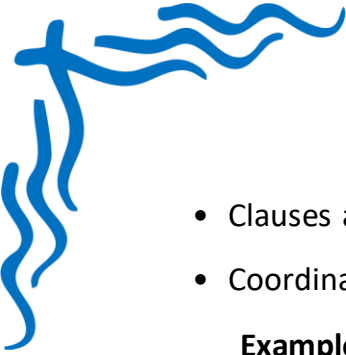
Note: A sentence is simple not because it's short, but because it has only one finite verb.

Compound Sentence

A compound sentence contains two or more main (independent) clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction.

Key Features:

- Each clause has its own subject and finite verb.



- Clauses are equally important (no clause depends on another).
- Coordinating conjunctions like and, but, or, so, yet, for, nor are used.

Examples:

- We spoke to him in English, but he replied in Telugu.
- Mother cooked dinner and served us. (Second subject "she" is omitted but understood)

Technical Terms:

- Each clause in a compound sentence is called a coordinate clause.
- These clauses are joined using coordinating conjunctions.

Complex Sentence

A complex sentence is made of one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

Key Features:

- The main clause makes complete sense on its own.
- The subordinate clause does not make complete sense alone and depends on the main clause.
- Subordinate clauses may act as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

Examples:

- I took an umbrella because it was raining.
 - **Main Clause:** I took an umbrella.
 - **Subordinate Clause:** because it was raining (adverb clause of reason)

Types of Subordinate Clauses:

- **Noun Clause** – acts like a noun (She said that she was happy.)
- **Adjective Clause** – acts like an adjective (The boy who won the race is my brother.)
- **Adverb Clause** – acts like an adverb (He left when the bell rang.)



Summary Table

Sentence Type	Number of Clauses	Example
Simple	One main clause	She sings.
Compound	Two or more main clauses	I came, and he went.
Complex	One main + subordinate(s)	I stayed at home because it was raining.

Points to Remember

- A simple sentence has only one finite verb.
- A compound sentence has two or more main clauses.
- A complex sentence has a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.
- Subordinate clauses depend on the main clause for their full meaning.

Practice Tip

To identify the sentence type:

1. Count the number of finite verbs.
2. Check if the clauses are independent or dependent.
3. Look for conjunctions:
 - **Coordinating:** and, but, or → Compound
 - **Subordinating:** because, when, if → Complex