

Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences

1. Simple Sentences

Definition:

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

Structure:

Subject + Verb + Object (SVO) or Subject + Predicate

- It expresses a complete thought.
- It cannot be broken into smaller clauses.

Examples:

- ❖ The train was late yesterday.
- ❖ Father drank his morning coffee.
- ❖ A drowning man catches at a straw.

Important Note:

Even if the subject or object has multiple items (like compound subjects), it's still a simple sentence as long as there is only one clause.

2. Compound Sentences

Definition:

A compound sentence is made up of two or more independent (main) clauses joined by coordinating conjunctions like:

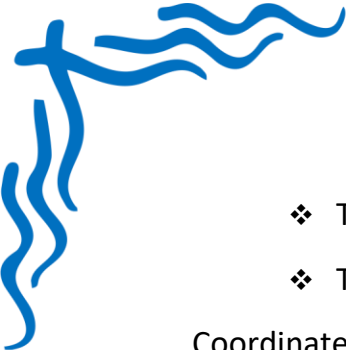
- and, but, or, so, yet, for, nor

Structure:

Independent Clause + Coordinating Conjunction + Independent Clause

Examples:

- ❖ Rohan brushed his teeth and ate breakfast.



- ❖ They spoke to him in English but he responded in Hindi.
- ❖ The teacher was absent so the students made noise.

Coordinate Clauses are of equal importance in compound sentences.

3. Complex Sentences

Definition:

A complex sentence contains one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses (dependent clauses).

Subordinate Clauses begin with:

- because, although, since, when, while, if, unless, that, which, who, whose, whom, where, why etc.

Types of Subordinate Clauses:

- Noun Clause: acts as the subject or object (e.g., What she said was true.)
- Adjective Clause: modifies a noun (e.g., The book that you gave me is interesting.)
- Adverb Clause: modifies a verb (e.g., He left because it was late.)

Examples:

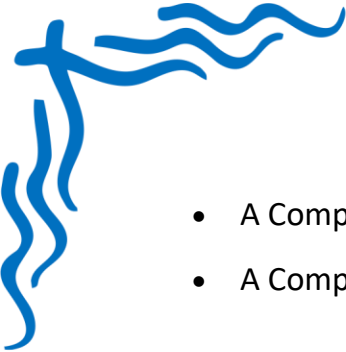
- ❖ Although Raj is rich, he never donates to the poor.
- ❖ The principal asked her why she was absent yesterday.
- ❖ He returned the laptop that he borrowed from me.

Grammar Bytes

Sentence Type	Clause Count	Example
Simple	1 independent clause	I like mangoes.
Compound	2 or more independent clauses	I ran fast but missed the train.
Complex	1 main + 1 or more subordinate	I went home because I was tired.

Points to Remember

- A Simple Sentence = 1 finite verb, 1 clause



- A Compound Sentence = 2+ independent clauses
- A Complex Sentence = 1 main clause + 1+ subordinate clauses