

Simple, complex, and compound sentences



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Simple sentences

A simple sentence is one which contains only one piece of information, or tells us only one thing. It has one verb.



Tommy loved his car.



Simon bought some new hair gel.

Amy ate three cakes!



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Compound sentences

A compound sentence is one in which you join two simple sentences together. Often we use the words 'and', 'but', or 'so' to do this. These words are called **conjunctions**.

Tommy loved his car **and** polished it every day.



Simon bought new hair gel **but** it didn't work very well.



Amy ate three cakes **so** ...



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Compound sentences

Apples grow on trees

are a type of fruit.

Dogs are very hairy

often have wet noses.

Monsters don't exist

**and
but
so**

I still don't like the dark.

It's raining hard

I'll take an umbrella.

There are chips for lunch

I won't eat any more crisps.

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Complex sentences

A complex sentence is one in which you **glue extra information** into a sentence. We call the original sentence the **main clause**, and the extra bit the **subordinate clause**.

Tommy loved his car, **which was green**.



Although he tried hard, Simon couldn't get his hair right.



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Complex sentences

You can tell which is the **main clause** and which is the **subordinate clause** because a **main clause** always makes sense on its own, and a **subordinate clause** doesn't.

Tommy loved his car.
Which was green.



Although he tried hard.
Simon couldn't get his hair right.



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Complex sentences

The **subordinate clause** can also come in the middle of the sentence.

Using lots of hair gel, **while making his hair stand up**, didn't seem to get Simon **the girl he wanted!**

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Complex sentences

Underline the **subordinate clause**.

1. The shops, which were usually lit up, looked closed today.
2. Despite eating twenty biscuits, Sam was still hungry.
3. Snuggled up in my dressing gown, I didn't want to leave the house.

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Simple, compound, or complex?

1. The cat stretched and ate his food.
2. Only apples grow on apple trees.
3. If you want to succeed, which I'm sure you do, you will have to work hard.
4. The little dinosaur, small though it was, still looked scary to me!
5. The rattling sound seemed to be coming from my waste paper bin.

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