



# University Writing Center

Grammar/Mechanics Workshop

Sentence Patterns





In this workshop, we will learn about....

Sentence construction  
Subject and predicate  
Nouns and pronouns

Four sentence types  
Simple  
Compound  
Complex  
Compound-Complex





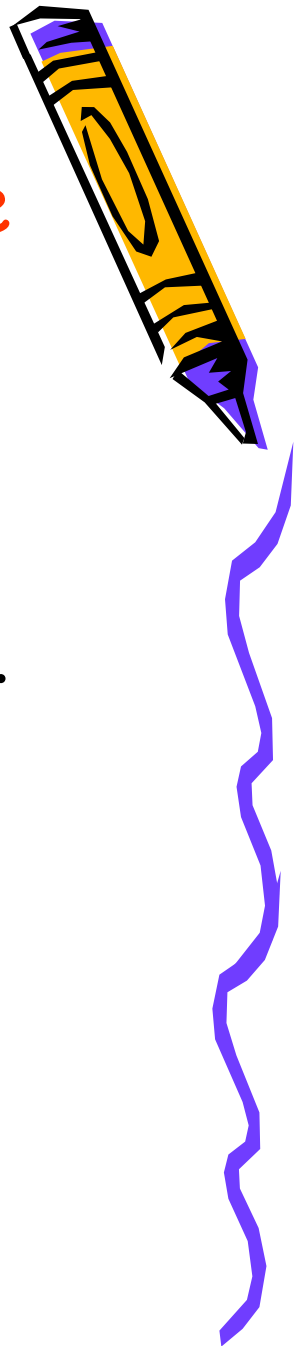
# Sentence

Generally, every sentence consists of a **subject** and a **predicate**.

Independent clauses express a complete thought and contain a **subject** and a **predicate**.



# What is a subject and a predicate in a sentence?

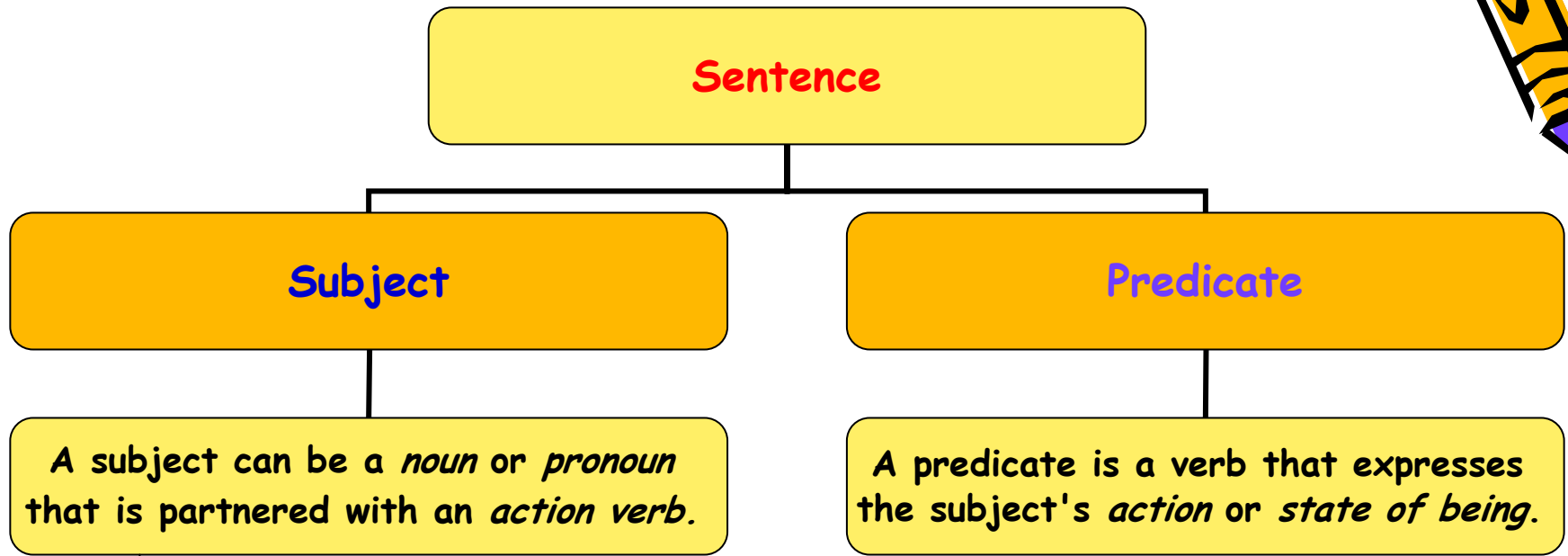


Every complete sentence contains two parts: a **subject** and a **predicate**.

Examples:

1. Marshall **runs**.
2. Marshall and Jermaine **run on the beach every morning**.

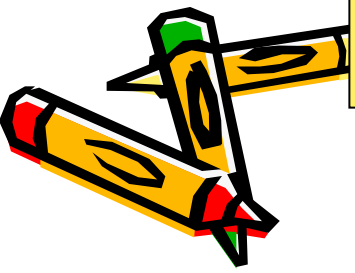




A subject can be a *noun* or *pronoun* that is partnered with an *action verb*.

A predicate is a verb that expresses the subject's *action* or *state of being*.

The simple definition of a **noun** is: a person, place, thing, or abstract idea.  
**Pronouns** are words that substitute for nouns.



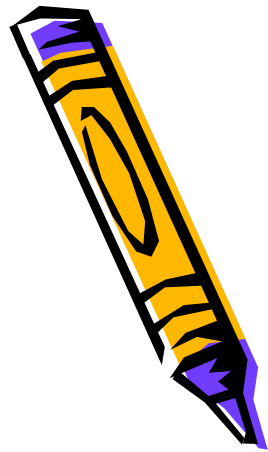
# Four Basic Kinds of Sentences

Simple

Compound

Complex

Compound-Complex



# Simple Sentence

The most basic type of sentence is the **simple sentence**, which contains only one independent clause.

**Example:**

Burger King has the best hamburgers.

A **simple sentence** can be as short as one word:

**Stop!**





Usually, the sentence has a **subject** as well as a **predicate**, and both of them may have modifiers. All of the following are **simple sentences** because each contains only one clause:

1. **Melt!**

2. **Ice melts.**

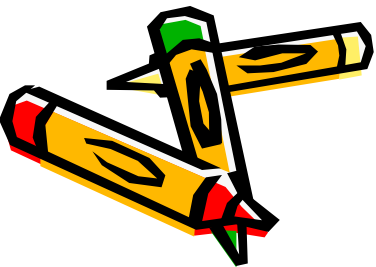
3. **The ice melts quickly.**

The most natural sentence structure is the **simple sentence**; it is the first kind which children learn to speak, and it remains by far the most common sentence in the spoken language.





- **Simple sentences** can be very effective for grabbing a reader's attention.
- They are also useful for summing up an argument.
- Be aware: too many **simple sentences** can make your writing seem childish.
- When you do use **simple sentences**, you should add transitional phrases to connect them to the surrounding sentences.

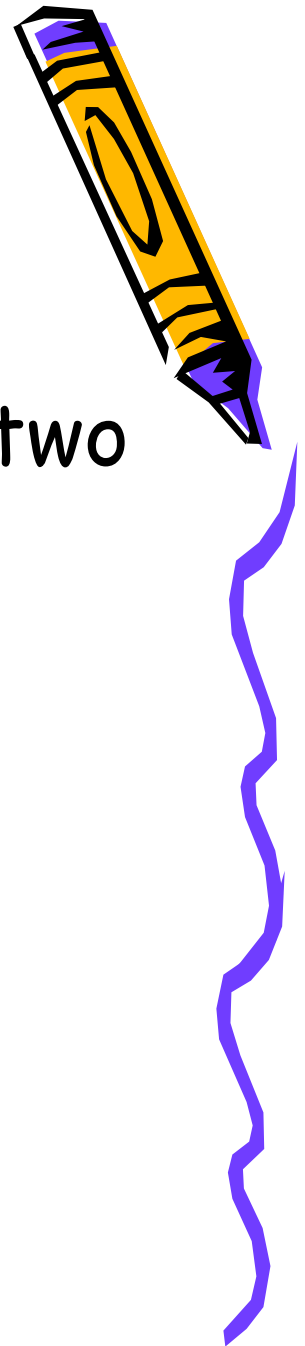


# Compound Sentences

A **compound sentence** consists of two or more independent clauses (or simple sentences) joined by coordinating conjunctions:

*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so.*

Quick Hint: Remember "FANBOYS"



# Example of a Compound Sentence



Simple

Austria is a beautiful country.

Simple

Austria has many poor people.

Compound

Austria is a beautiful country, *but* it has many poor people.



## Transitional Words or Phrases

Transitional words or phrases connect one idea to another. They have different purposes.

- **To Show Chronological Order**

afterward, again, also, as long as, as soon as, at last, before, besides, earlier, equally important, furthermore, meanwhile, moreover, simultaneously, soon, then, therefore, too, until, when

- **To Indicate Spatial Order**

above, below, beyond, elsewhere, farther on, here, near, nearby

- **To Connect Examples or Show Emphasis**

for example, for instance, in fact, of course, specifically, such as

- **To Compare and Contrast**

in comparison, also, likewise, similarly, although, on the contrary, and yet, but, despite, even so, however, yet

- **To Trace Cause and Effect**

because, consequently, otherwise, since, then, therefore

- **To Summarize**

in short, in simpler terms, in summary, that is, to summarize



# For Review:

An **independent clause** is comprised of a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

I wrote my first novel last year.

A **dependent clause** is comprised of a subject and a verb, but an incomplete thought.

after I wrote my first novel last  
year



# Complex Sentences

A **complex sentence** is a sentence with an independent clause and at least one dependent clause. The dependent clause is introduced by either a subordinate conjunction such as *although*, *while*, or *because*, or a relative pronoun such as *who* or *which*.

## Simple

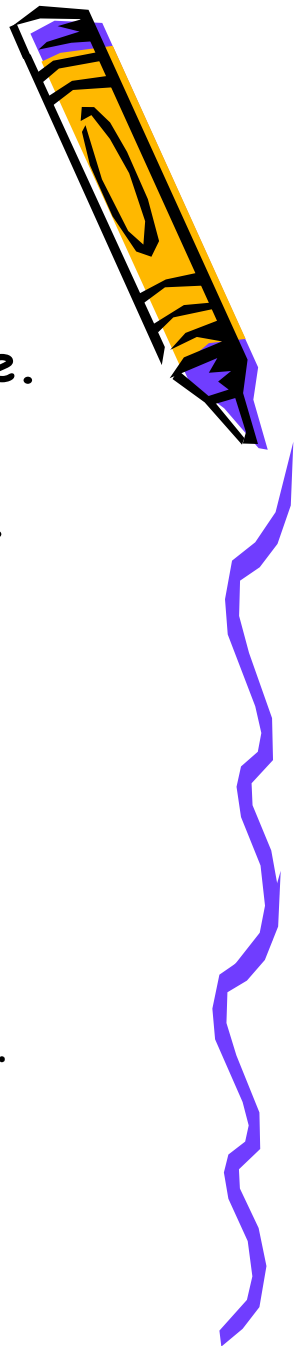
My friend invited me to a party. I do not want to go.

## Compound

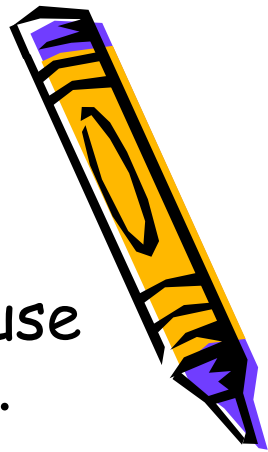
My friend invited me to a party, but I do not want to go.

## Complex

Although my friend invited me to a party, I do not want to go.



A **complex sentence** is very different from a **simple sentence** or a **compound sentence** because it makes clear which ideas are most important.



### Examples:

1. Although Tom reads novels, Jack reads comics.
2. When he was younger, Mike had many dogs.
3. Many people enjoyed the movie; however, William did not.



# Compound-complex sentence

A **Compound-complex sentence** has two independent clauses joined to one or more dependent clauses.

While Tom reads novels,	Jack reads comics,	but Sam only reads magazines.
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Dependent clause

Independent clause

Independent clause





## *Connectors for Compound-complex sentences*



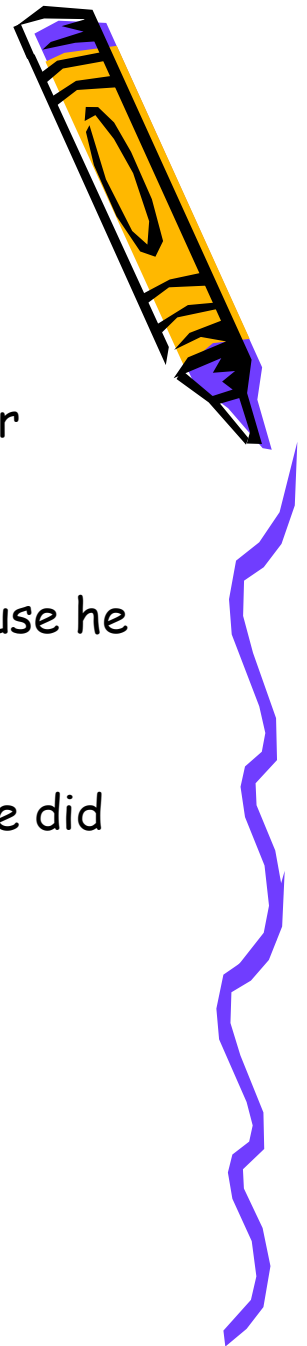
Two independent clauses may be joined by coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS) or conjunctive adverbs.

Examples of conjunctive adverbs:

*furthermore, meanwhile, therefore, hence, moreover, thus, however, and nevertheless*



# Examples of compound- complex sentences



1. The manual will be helpful, and the instructions will be clear when you read them because they are well written.
2. John went to school; however, James remained home because he had a sore throat.
3. Carmelo is watching T.V, but Allen is at practice because he did not play very well.



# Quick Quiz

Is it a **simple**, **compound**,  
**complex**, or **compound-**  
**complex** sentence?



# Sentence 1

Because of her disdain for the north,  
Wilma moved to Miami.

Simple Sentence

Compound Sentence

Complex Sentence

Compound-Complex Sentence

Complex Sentence



# Sentence 2

The three male siblings were determined to gain their independence, and each desired a dwelling of his own.

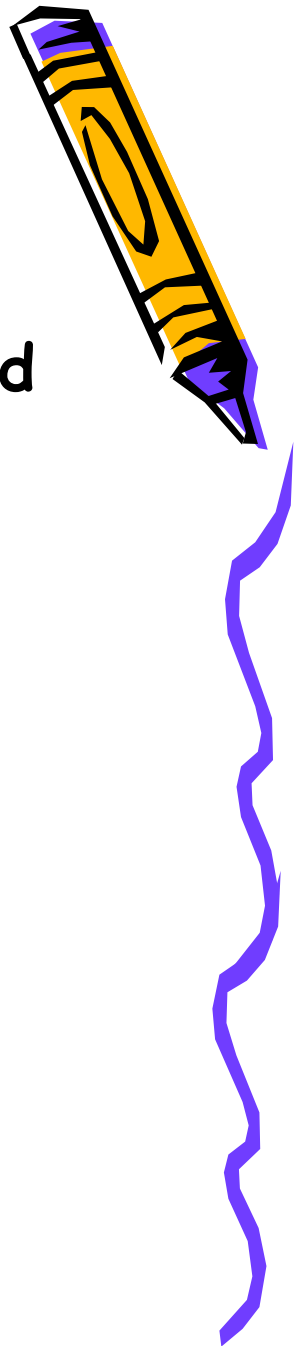
Simple Sentence

Compound Sentence

Complex Sentence

Compound-Complex Sentence

Compound Sentence



# Sentence 3

Because of the string of robberies,  
Cindy carries a bottle of pepper spray.

Simple Sentence

Compound Sentence

Complex Sentence

Compound-Complex Sentence

**Complex Sentence**



# Sentence 4

Biffington is from Alabama; Wayne is from Missouri.

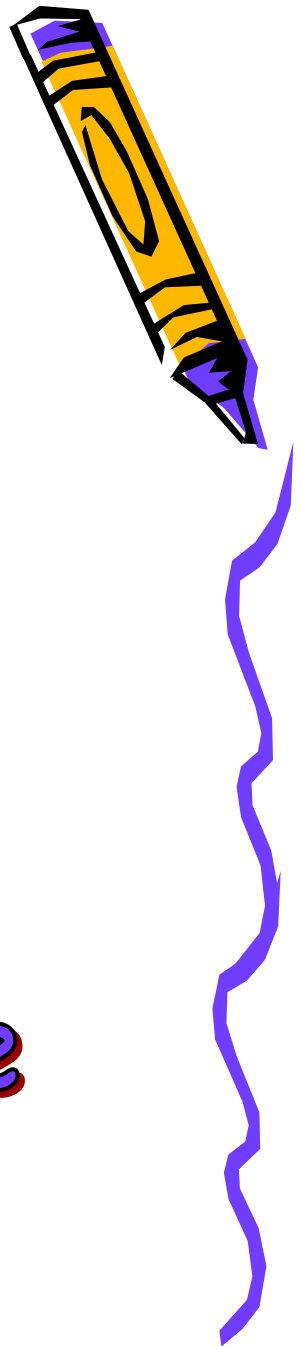
Simple Sentence

Compound Sentence

Complex Sentence

Compound-Complex Sentence

**Compound Sentence**



# Sentence 5

Jamaal spends all of his money on sneakers.

Simple Sentence

Compound Sentence

Complex Sentence

Compound-Complex Sentence

**Simple Sentence**





# Sentence 6

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those that matter don't mind."

-Dr. Suess

Simple Sentence

Compound Sentence

Complex Sentence

Compound-Complex Sentence

Compound-complex Sentence



# University Writing Center

Room A-309 N.C.B.  
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Monday-Thursday: 9:00am-5:00pm

Friday: 9:00am-12:00pm

\*We take appointments; walk-ins are  
welcome as well.



# Questions & Answers

