

# SENTENCE STRUCTURE

## Independent Clause (I.C.)

An independent clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb that can stand alone as a separate sentence.

Example:

(I.C.)  
Maria went home.

## Dependent Clause (D.C.)

A dependent clause cannot stand alone; it must depend on an independent clause to complete its meaning. A dependent clause must begin with a relative pronoun like who, whoever, whom, whomever, whose, which, that; or a subordinating conjunction like while, before, after, because, etc.

Example:

(D.C.) (I.C.)  
After Maria went home, she took a nap.

(D.C.)  
The woman [that Mary saw in his car] was his wife.  
(I.C.)

## Simple Sentences

A simple sentence is a sentence with only a single independent clause made up of a subject and a predicate. The subject and the predicate may each be a single word or a group of words.

Steak sizzles.

The best steak comes from the midwest.

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# Simple Sentences with Compound Elements

A simple sentence with compound elements is a simple sentence with two or more subjects or two or more verbs. There are several combinations that the simple sentence with compound elements may have. Sentences may have two subjects with one verb, one subject with two verbs, or two or more subjects with two or more verbs.

Joe and Mary went to the party.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Mary went to the party and laughed herself silly.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Joe and Mary went to the party and laughed themselves silly.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

# Compound Sentences

A compound sentence consists of two independent clauses connected in one of three ways. They may be connected:

- a. with a comma and a coordinating conjunction (nor, or, so, yet, and, for, but).  
(N O S Y A F B)
- b. with a semicolon and no coordinating conjunction.
- c. with a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb (however, nevertheless, therefore, consequently, furthermore...) and followed by a comma.

George waited by the mailbox, but the mailman never came.

\_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_.

George waited by the mailbox; the mailman never came.

\_\_\_\_\_;

George waited by the mailbox; however, the mailman never came.

\_\_\_\_\_ ; however, \_\_\_\_\_.

# Complex Sentences

A complex sentence consists of a sentence with both an independent clause and a dependent clause. **When the dependent clause comes before the independent clause, separate them with a comma. When the dependent clause comes after the independent clause, no comma is usually needed.** Dependent clauses begin with relative pronouns or subordinating conjunctions.

**Relative Pronouns:** who, whoever, whom, whomever, whose, which, that

## Subordinating

**Conjunctions:** after, although, as, as if, as long as, as soon as, as though, because, before, even if, even though, how, if, in order that, once, provided that, since, so that, though, unless, until, when, whenever, wherever, while....

(Because) the wind was so strong, the waves on the ocean were fifteen feet high.

( ) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Tom waited in the car (while) his wife shopped for groceries.

\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_.

The woman (that) Mary saw in the car was his wife.

\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_.

# Compound Complex Sentences

A compound complex sentence consists of at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause in any order. There may, however, be more than two independent clauses and more than one dependent clause.

(Because) Debbie was careful and took her time, her paper received a 4.0 grade, and she was very happy.

( ) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,

and \_\_\_\_\_.

Jim drove us to the beach, but we could not go swimming (because) it started raining.

\_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_.

Tim worked on his old car (until) he fixed the problem; the carburetor was dirty.

\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_;

\_\_\_\_\_.

Yesterday we drove to Chicago, and (because) the snow was so heavy,  
it took us nearly four hours to get there.

\_\_\_\_\_ , and ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ ,

\_\_\_\_\_ .

The people (that) I know in this plant are concerned about finding new jobs;  
consequently, they are working hard to upgrade their skills.

\_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ ;

consequently, \_\_\_\_\_ .