

SENTENCE STRUCTURE



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Being able to use different sentence structures will help you express complicated reasoning as well as make your essays flow better. Especially in academic writing, the sentences are often longer and complex, rather than the short simple sentences more common in essays written by beginners.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSES

The simplest form of complete sentence, with a subject, a verb, and (optionally) an object.

DEPENDENT CLAUSES

Clauses that are not complete sentences on their own, but add more information to an independent clause.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Two independent clauses can be joined by one of the linking words from the acronym FANBOYS: **for, and, nor, but, or, yet & so.**

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

This kind of linking words can be used to connect dependent clauses to an independent clause. There are dozens of examples, but ten of the most common are: **because, although, while, when, before, if, since, until, unless & after.**

SENTENCE STRUCTURES

SIMPLE SENTENCE:

A simple sentence always has a subject and a verb, and usually an object (optional). A simple sentence has one independent clause.

The students completed their assignments.

COMPOUND SENTENCE:

A compound sentence connects two independent clauses using **coordinating conjunctions**.

The students completed their assignments, but they did not submit them on time.

COMPLEX SENTENCE:

A complex sentence adds additional information by connecting one dependent clause with extra information before or after the independent clause. They are joined by a **subordinating conjunction** in the dependent clause.

Although the students completed their assignments, they did not submit them on time.

COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE:

A compound-complex sentence joins two independent clauses and one dependent clause with two linking words.

Although the students completed their assignments, they did not submit them on time, so they received a lower grade.