

Sentences

S.O.S. Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences

L 3.1 h Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences.

Simple Sentences

A simple sentence expresses only one idea. It contains only one subject and one predicate.

The young man wants to fly airplanes.

Your Turn Write each sentence. Circle the subject and underline the predicate.

1. He reads about airplanes.
2. His friend was a pilot.
3. The man enrolls in a training program.
4. All of his classmates share his interest.
5. It will be quite an adventure!

Compound Sentences

A **compound sentence** expresses two or more complete thoughts, which are **combined** using a comma and a **coordinating conjunction**. A coordinating conjunction is a small word that links two things, such as *and*, *but*, or *or*.

I walk to school. You ride the bus. (two simple sentences)

*I walk to school, **but** you ride the bus. (one compound sentence)*

Your Turn Write each pair of simple sentences as a compound sentence.

1. Sam runs down the hall. The dog chases him.
2. Tara goes outside. It starts to rain.
3. Tara gets a ride. Sam decides to walk in the rain.
4. The school bell rings. The students go inside.
5. The rain turns to snow. Students are sent home early.

ANSWERS:

1. Sam runs down the hall, and the dog chases him. 2. Tara goes outside, and it starts to rain. 3. Tara gets a ride, but Sam decides to walk in the rain. 4. The school bell rings, and the students go inside. 5. The rain turns to snow, and students are sent home early.

Complex Sentences

A **complex sentence** has an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. An **independent clause** contains a subject and predicate and tells a complete thought.

A **dependent clause** contains a subject and predicate, and begins with a **subordinating conjunction**, such as *after, although, before, because, if, since, until, when, where, while*.

Place a **comma** after the dependent clause when it is at the start of a sentence. *When we got there, the game began.*

Your Turn Write each sentence. Circle the independent clause. Underline the dependent clause.

1. People stopped to talk when they saw us there.
2. Because we sold so many, we raised a lot of money.

Run-On Sentences

A **run-on sentence** contains two or more independent clauses without the proper conjunctions or punctuation.

I cooked dinner my family liked it they asked for seconds.

You can correct run-on sentences using these strategies.

Break the independent clauses into separate sentences.	<i>I cooked dinner. My family liked it. They asked for seconds.</i>
Create a compound subject or compound predicate.	<i>I cooked dinner. My family liked it and asked for seconds.</i>
Create a compound sentence using coordinating conjunctions.	<i>I cooked dinner, and my family liked it. They asked for seconds.</i>
Create a complex sentence using subordinating conjunctions.	<i>I cooked dinner. Since my family liked it, they asked for seconds.</i>

Your Turn Correct each run-on sentence.

1. This was my first time cooking, ^{MY} my mother helped.
2. Did you make the dessert, I didn't have time.
3. I cooked the meal, I didn't have to do the dishes.

Answers will vary but should demonstrate proper use of sentence structure and punctuation.