

Clause

A group of words containing a subject and predicate and functioning as a member of a complex or compound sentence is called clause.

Examples:

I graduated last year. (One clause sentence)

When I came here, I saw him. (Two clause sentence)

When I came here, I saw him, and he greeted me. (Three clause sentence)

Types of Clauses

Clauses are mainly of two types:

1. Independent Clause
2. Dependent Clause

1. Independent Clause

An **independent clause** functions on its own to make a meaningful sentence and looks much like a regular sentence.

In a sentence two independent clauses can be connected by the *coordinators: and, but, so, or, nor, for*, yet**.

Examples:

He is a wise man.

I like him.

Can you do it?

Do it please. (*Subject you* is hidden)

I read the whole story.

I want to buy a phone, **but** I don't have enough money. (Two independent clauses)

He went to London **and** visited the Lords. (Subject of the second clause is 'he,' so "he visited the Lords" is an independent clause.)

2. Dependent Clause

A **dependent clause** cannot function on its own because it leaves an idea or thought unfinished. It is also called subordinate clause. Dependent clauses help the independent clauses complete the sentence. A dependent clause alone cannot form a complete sentence.

The *subordinators* do the work of connecting the dependent clause to another clause to complete the sentence. In each of the dependent clause, the first word is a subordinator. Subordinators include relative pronouns, subordinating conjunctions, and noun clause markers.

Examples:

When I was going to meet Diana, I had an accident.

I know the man who stole the watch.

He bought a car which was too expensive.

I know that he cannot do it.

He does not know where he was born.

If you don't eat, I won't go.

He is a very talented player though he is out of form.

Types of Sentences

There are four types of sentence: Simple, Compound, Complex, and Compound-Complex.

1. Simple sentence

A Simple sentence is one which has only one Subject and one Predicate. It expresses a single complete thought that can stand on its own.

Examples

1) *His courage won him honour.*

^It has only one Subject and one Predicate, Such a sentence is called a Simple Sentence.

2) *The baby cried for food.*

^There is a subject and a verb that expresses a complete thought.

3) *Megan and Ron ate too much and felt sick.*

^Although there are two subjects and two verbs, it is still a simple sentence because both verbs share the same subjects and express one complete thought.

2. Compound Sentence

A Compound sentence is one made up of two or more Independent or Main Clauses.

Usually, we join independent clauses with one of the seven coordinating conjunctions. (*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*). Remember them with the mnemonic FANBOYS.

Note: The term **Double** is now used for a sentence which consists of two principal or main clauses, and the term **Multiple** for a sentence of more than two principal or main clauses.

Example 1 (Double)

1) *The moon was bright and we could see our way.*

^ It consists of two parts: **(i)** The moon was bright. **(ii)** We could see our way.

These two parts are joined by the Coordinating Conjunction '**and**'.

2) *The shoplifter had stolen clothes, so he ran once he saw the police.*

^Both sides of the conjunction “so” are complete sentences. (i) “The shoplifter had stolen clothes” can stand alone and so can (ii) “he ran once he saw the police”. Therefore, this is a compound sentence.

3) *They spoke to him in Spanish, but he responded in English.*

^This is also a compound sentence that uses a conjunction ‘but’ to separate two individual Independent or main clauses.

4) *I have known him for a long time, yet I have never understood him.*

^This is also a compound sentence that uses a conjunction ‘yet’ to separate two individual Independent or main clauses.

5) *Mary never wrote the letter, nor did she call him.*

^This is also a compound sentence that uses a conjunction ‘nor’ to separate two individual Independent or main clauses. (Note the inversion of subject and auxiliary: *did she.*)

Example 2 (Multiple)

Night came on and rain fell heavily and we all got very wet.

The **Sentence** mentioned above consists of three Clauses of the same order or rank. In other words, the sentence consists of three Independent or Main Clauses: (i) Night came on (ii) Rain fell heavily (iii) We all got very wet. Such a sentence is also called a Compound sentence.

3. Complex sentence

A complex sentence is an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses. A dependent clause either lacks a subject or a verb or has both a subject and a verb that does not express a complete thought.

A complex sentence always has a subordinator (*as, because, since, after, although, when, if*) or relative pronouns (*who, that, which*).

Example:

1) *They rested when evening came.*

The sentence mentioned above consists of two parts: (i) They rested (ii) When evening came.

We notice that the (i) Clause, *They rested*, makes good sense by itself, and hence could stand by itself as a complete sentence. It is therefore called the Independent or Main Clause.

The (ii) Clause, *when evening came*, cannot stand by itself. It is dependent on the Clause, *they rested*. It is therefore called a Dependent or Subordinate Clause.

2) *After eating lunch at The Cheesecake Factory, Tim went to the gym to exercise.*

^ The independent clause is ‘Tim went to the gym to exercise.’. If one were to say “after eating lunch at The Cheesecake Factory,” it would be an incomplete thought. Therefore, it is called dependent or subordinating clause.

3) *Opinionated women are given disadvantages in societies that privilege male accomplishments.*

^ The first part of the sentence “opinionated women are given disadvantages in societies” is an independent clause that expresses a complete thought. The following “that privilege male accomplishments” is a dependent clause.

4) *The woman, who taught Art History 210, was fired for stealing school supplies.*

^ The dependent clause in this sentence is “who taught Art History 210” because if removed, the rest of the sentence would stand as an independent clause. “Who taught Art History 210” is a dependent or subordinate clause.

4. Compound-Complex Sentences

A compound-complex sentence has two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.

Examples:

1) After the two soccer players lost their game, they joined their other teammates for lunch, and they went to the movies.

^ If we remove the dependent clause “after the two soccer players lost their game,” we have a compound sentence. The dependent clause makes this sentence compound-complex.

2) The man believed in the system, and he knew that justice would prevail after the murderer was sent to jail.

ACTIVITIES

Identify whether the sentences are simple, compound, complex or compound-complex. Do underline dependent clauses where it applies.

1. Vampires Dairies is my favorite television show, but I also love True Blood.
2. The student wiped the white board that was filthy with last week's notes.
3. The trendy fashion designer released her new line on Wednesday.
4. Trina and Hareem went to a bar in Hollywood to celebrate their anniversary.
5. Wicked Regina cast a spell on the entire city, so the citizens decided to rebel.
6. While waiting for the paint to dry, Angela went to Home Depot, and Martin organized the kitchen appliances.
7. After listening to the Kanye West CD, I have new respect for his music.
8. After the teacher chose groups, John and Sara were selected as partners for a project, yet Sarah did most of the work.

Choose the correct answer.

1. **Dad went hunting, but mama decided to stay home.**
 - a) Simple sentence
 - b) Compound sentence
 - c) Complex sentence
2. **Mrs. Carrero said that will be enough, and everyone agreed.**
 - a) Simple sentence
 - b) Compound sentence
 - c) Complex sentence
3. **Although he searched everywhere, Mr. Brooks could not find the keys to the computer lab.**
 - a) Simple sentence
 - b) Compound sentence

- c) Complex sentence
- 4. Eric ran home the rest of the way because he knew he was in trouble.**
- a) Simple sentence
 - b) Compound sentence
 - c) Complex sentence
- 5. What type of sentence has two independent clauses and is joined by a FANBOYS (conjunction) or a semicolon?**
- a) Simple sentence
 - b) Compound sentence
 - c) Complex sentence
- 6. The vacation to Myrtle Beach should be extremely restful.**
- a) Simple sentence
 - b) Compound sentence
 - c) Complex sentence
- 7. Her left arm was badly broken at the wrist during the car accident.**
- a) Simple sentence
 - b) Compound sentence
 - c) Complex sentence
- 8. In which of the following sentence types are FANBOYS or semicolons (;) used to join clauses?**
- a) Simple sentence
 - b) Compound sentence
 - c) Complex sentence
- 9. Those clouds promise snow; we might get another snow day off from school.**
- a) Simple sentence
 - b) Compound sentence
 - c) Complex sentence
- 10. A subject and a verb that cannot stand alone is called a _____.**

- a) Simple sentence
- b) Independent clause
- c) Dependent clause
- d) Complex sentence

11. Dr. Matthews did what could be done, but it simply was not enough to save his life.

- a) Simple sentence
- b) Compound sentence
- c) Complex sentence

12. Elijah remained at home because he had a sore throat.

- a) Simple sentence
- b) Compound sentence
- c) Complex sentence

13. While the music played, Rachel sneaked in through the side door.

- a) Simple sentence
- b) Compound sentence
- c) Complex sentence

14. A sentence with one independent clause and at least one dependent clause is called

_____.

- a) Simple sentence
- b) Compound sentence
- c) Complex sentence

15. Since we had only gone a mile from camp, we could turn back before dark.

- a) Simple sentence
- b) Compound sentence
- c) Complex sentence

16. A simple sentence that stands alone is called _____.

- a) Depended clause
- b) Independent clause

c) Phrase

17. My classmates were wearing heavy clothes in the winter months.

- a) Simple sentence
- b) Compound sentence
- c) Complex sentence

18. Mara and Kelly had planned to return to Canada.

- a) Simple sentence
- b) Compound sentence
- c) Complex sentence

19. I know you don't like him, but that doesn't matter.

- a) Simple sentence
- b) Compound sentence
- c) Complex sentence

20. Sarah and Ashley giggled and whispered all night.

- a) Simple sentence
- b) Compound sentence
- c) Complex sentence

Online Quizzes

Click the links given below to attempt the quiz related to Types of Sentences.

<http://esl.fis.edu/grammar/multi/satzType.htm>

https://www.softschools.com/quizzes/language_arts/sentence_types/quiz1848.html