

Instructor: Dr. BENDERRAH Ahlam
Course: Academic Writing

Academic year: 2023-2024
Level: 3rd year.

Sentence Structure:

I. Building Blocks

According to the Longman dictionary, the building blocks of a sentence are defined as follow:

Sentence	“a group of words that usually contains <u>a subject and a verb</u> , and expresses a <u>complete idea</u> . Sentences written in English begin with a capital letter and usually end with a full stop or a question mark”
Clause	“a group of words that contains <u>a subject and a verb</u> , but which is usually only part of a sentence”
Phrase	“a group of words <u>without a finite verb</u> , especially when they are used to form part of a sentence, such as ‘walking along the road’ and ‘a bar of soap’”

II. Types of Sentences:

1. Simple sentence (also called main or independent clause):

Basic:

- Leo Tolstoy wrote *War and Peace*.

Using Compound Components :

- Tolstoy wrote and published *War and Peace*.
- Tolstoy wrote *War and Peace, Anna Karenina, and Hadji Murat*.
- Leo Tolstoy, Maxim Gorky, and Anton Chekhov are Russian.
- *Hadji Murat* was written during Tolstoy’s life but published after his death.

Inserting Phrases:

- Tolstoy wrote many novels: War and Peace, Anna Karenina, and Hadji Murat.
noun phrase
- Tolstoy wrote *War and Peace* in 1867.
prepositional phrase
- *War and Peace* is Tolstoy's first novel.
noun phrase
- Tolstoy wrote his first novel in 1867.
noun phrase
- Tolstoy wrote his first novel, War and Peace, in 1867.
appositive phrase
- *War and Peace* is extremely popular.
adjective phrase
- I like to read Russian literature.
infinitive phrase
- I like reading Russian literature.
gerund phrase
- Reading War and Peace, I was enchanted by the author's style.
participle phrase
- Tolstoy wrote *War and Peace* with great skill.
adverb phrase
- *War and Peace* is a composition of fiction, poetry, and historical narrative.
noun phrase
- The author of War and Peace rejected its classification as a novel.
noun phrase noun phrase

Note that:

- a. A simple sentence may contain a phrase, but not a (subordinate) clause.
- b. The difference between a clause and a phrase is that a clause necessarily contains both a subject and a (complete) verb, unlike a phrase.

c. In a simple sentence, a phrase may be used as:

- an additional extension to the main clause, e.g. the above appositive phrase "War and Peace," participle phrase "Reading War and Peace," and the prepositional phrases.
 - A replacement of one of the main clause's elements: subject, verb, object, e.g. the above noun phrases, gerund phrase, adverb phrase, adjective phrase, and infinitive phrase.

d. A main clause and a phrase can be combined with a comma (,), a colon (:), or no punctuation mark at all.

2. **Compound Sentence:** (2 or more main clauses joined with a coordinating conjunction “FANBOYS”, or a punctuation mark)

- He wrote and I read.
main clause 1 main clause 2
 - Dickens did not publish *Hadji Murat*, nor did he translate it.
main clause 01 main clause 02
 - Tolstoy wrote *War and Peace*, and Nathan Haskell Dole translated it.
main clause 01 main clause 02
 - Tolstoy wrote *War and Peace*; Nathan Haskell Dole translated it.
main clause 01 main clause 02
 - Tolstoy wrote his first novel in 1869, yet it was not translated into English until 1899.
main clause 01 main clause 02
 - Tolstoy wrote his first novel, *War and Peace*, in 1869, and it was translated into English in 1899.
main clause 01 main clause 02
 - Tolstoy had not finished *Hadji Murat* in his lifetime, so his acquaintances edited and published it for him later on.
main clause 01 main clause 02
 - The author of *War and Peace* rejected its classification as a novel: it is a composition of fiction, poetry, and historical narrative.
main clause 01 main clause 02

3. **Complex Sentence:** (1 main clause + 1 or more **subordinate clauses** introduced by a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun)

- The author who wrote Hadji Murat has started his literary success with War and Peace.
relative clause
- The novel we saw on the shelf is written by Tolstoy.
relative clause
- This is the novel that Tolstoy wrote.
relative clause
- When you read for Tolstoy, contemplate his realistic style.
subordinate clause
- War and Peace is a composition of fiction, poetry, and historical narrative; therefore, its author rejected classifying it as a novel.
subordinate clause
- The author of War and Peace rejected its classification as a novel, because it is a composition of fiction, poetry, and historical narrative.

4. **Complex-Compound Sentence:** (complex + compound, i.e., 2 or more independent clauses + 1 or more **subordinate clauses**).

- The novel we saw on the shelf is written by Tolstoy; it is War and Peace.
- I was really delighted when I read Tolstoy's War and Peace; this author amazes me.
- Although Tolstoy writes in Russian, his work often includes French expressions, for it used to be the language of the Russian upper classes.

III. References:

“Clause.” *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online*, Parson. *ldoceonline*. <https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/clause>. Accessed 27 Oct 2023.

“Sentence.” *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online*, Parson. *ldoceonline*. <https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/sentence>. Accessed 27 Oct 2023.

“Phrase.” *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online*, Parson. *ldoceonline*. <https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/phrase>. Accessed 27 Oct 2023.