

Sentence Structure



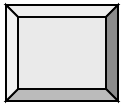
Adding Variety to Sentence Structure

To make your writing more interesting and give it a distinct VOICE, you should try to vary your sentences in terms of length and structure. You can make some of your sentences long and others short. Read the two paragraphs on the next page.

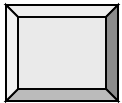


Two Paragraphs

Read the paragraphs below. Choose the paragraph that is more effective.



I love living in the city. I have a wonderful view of the entire city. I have an apartment. I can see the Golden Gate Bridge. I can see many cargo ships pass under the bridge each day. I like the restaurants in San Francisco. I can find wonderful food from just about every country. I don't like the traffic in the city.



I love living in the city of San Francisco. I have a wonderful view of the entire city from my apartment window. In addition, I can see the Golden Gate Bridge under which many cargo ships pass each day. I also like San Francisco because I can find wonderful restaurants with food from just about every country; however, I don't like the traffic in the city.



How do you vary sentence structure?

You will want to use a variety of sentence structures in your writing. There are four types of sentences we will study in this lesson:

- Simple Sentence
- Compound Sentence
- Complex Sentence
- Compound/Complex Sentence



Think of a complete
sentence like this....



Most of the time our ideas include more details. We add extra words to the wheels.



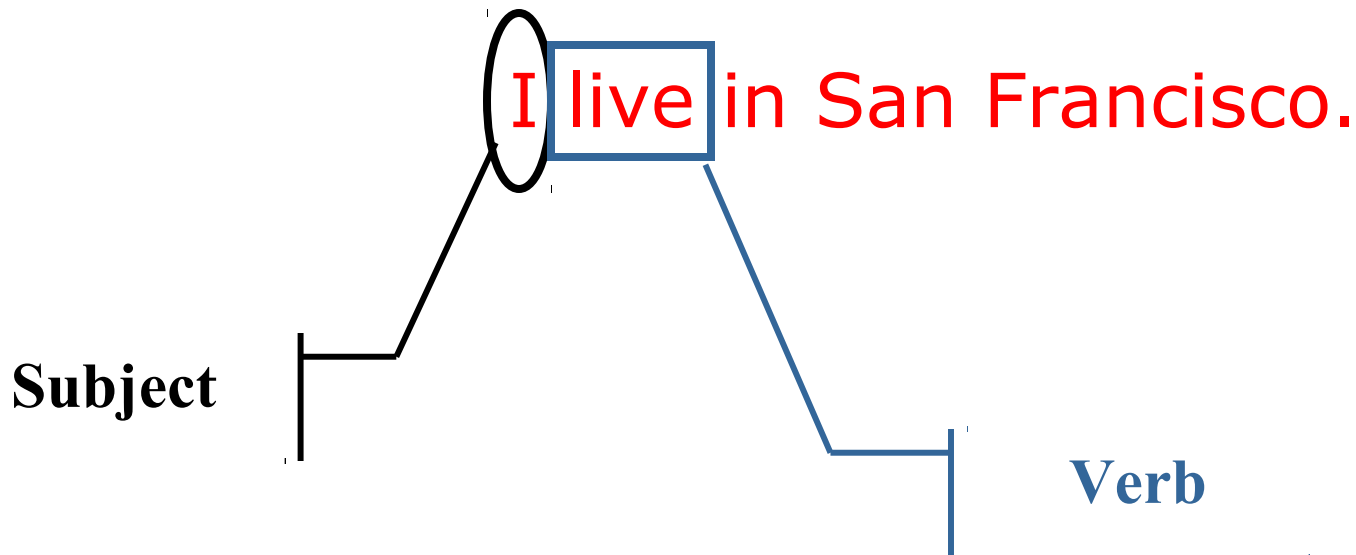
*The neighborhood **children play** basketball at the community center.

***Students** in the biology lab **studied** cells under an electron microscope



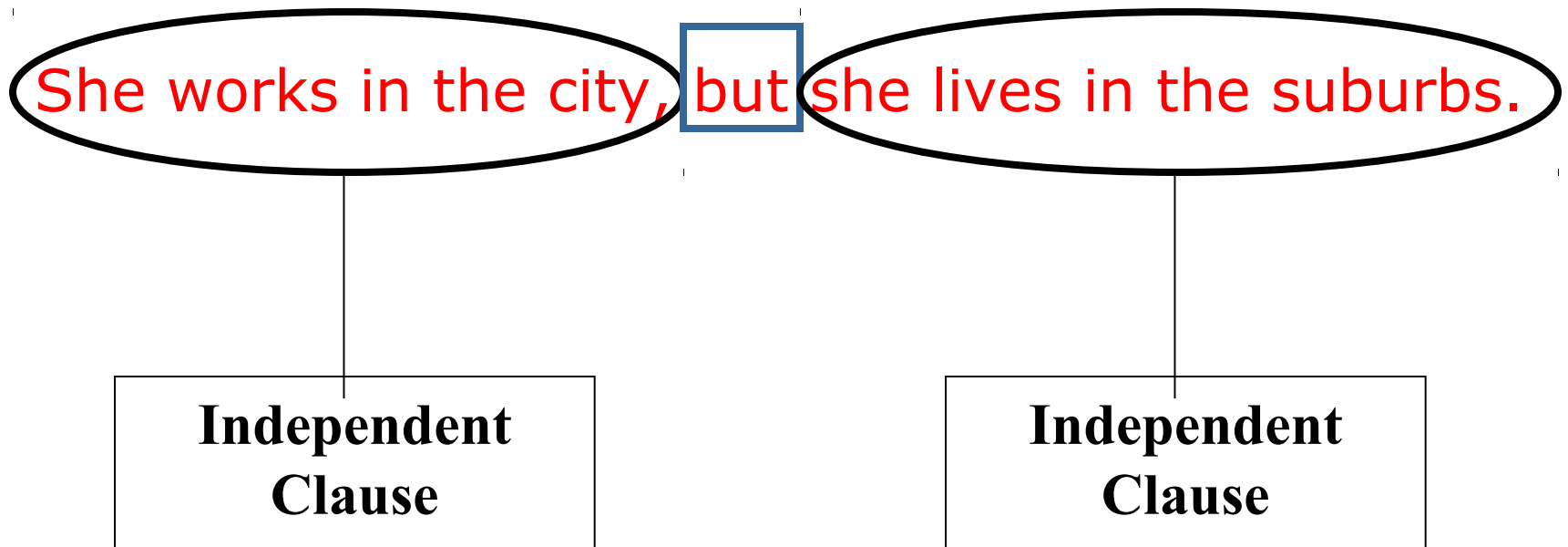
The Simple Sentence

A simple sentence has one ***independent clause*** (one subject and a verb):



Compound Sentence

A **compound sentence** contains two independent clauses that are joined together.



If there is a missing subject or missing verb.....

- The sentence is considered a fragment.....

- Examples:

- Went to the store.
- Before I take my test.
- The best class in the world!
- Over the river and through the woods.
- James, a student in first block.



Compound Sentence

You can make a **compound sentence** by joining two logically related independent clauses by using...

- a semicolon
- a coordinating conjunction
- a transition



Using a Semicolon

Independent Clause ; Independent Clause

I love living in the city ; there are so many things to do.

**Independent
Clause**

**Independent
Clause**



Using a Coordinating Conjunction

Independent Clause ,coordinating conjunction Independent Clause

He couldn't watch the show , so he decided to tape it.

Independent
Clause

Independent
Clause



FANBOYS

Easy way to remember conjunctions...

- For → **F**
- And → **A**
- Nor → **N**
- But → **B**
- Or → **O**
- Yet → **Y**
- So → **S**



CAUTION!

Do **NOT** use a comma every time you use the words ***and, or, but, nor, for, so, yet.*** Use a comma only when the coordinating conjunction joins two independent clauses.

Simple Sentence

The necklace was beautiful but expensive.

Independent
Clause

No comma- not an
independent clause



Quick comma lesson

- Only use a comma to separate two independent clauses joined by a conjunction.
 - Comma? Simple or Complex Sentence?
 - After school I am going to the store and to the mall.
 - I like to watch baseball games and she likes to watch football games.
 - English class is my favorite subject and my best subject.
 - Jamie bought all of her materials for school and she covered all of her books last night.
 - My brother drove me to school and dropped me off.



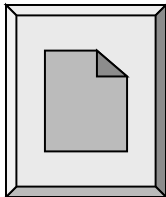
Using a Transition

Independent Clause ; transition , Independent Clause

I love San Francisco ; however, I hate the traffic.

**Independent
Clause**

**Independent
Clause**

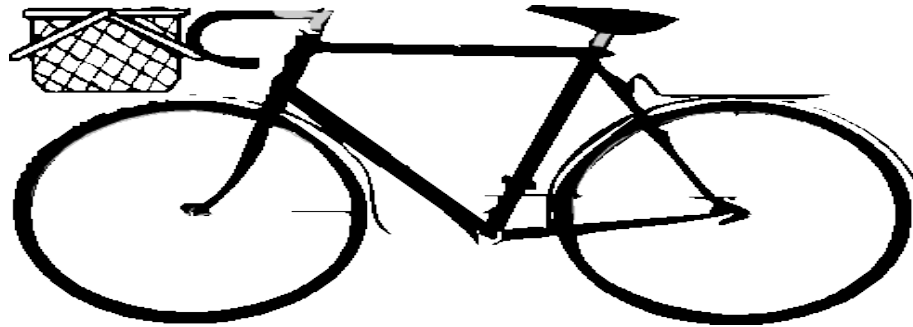


Click here to see lists of transitions.



Back to our bike....

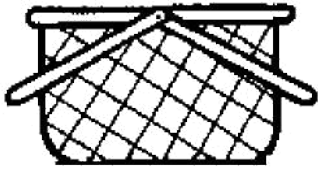
Sometimes our bike needs “accessories” to help us get where we need to go.



- Dependent clauses cannot stand alone. They are like baskets that need to be attached to a basic sentence.



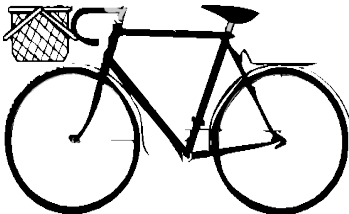
For example...



When the music began



Everyone started to dance.



When the music began,
everyone started to dance.



Complex Sentences

A **complex sentence** contains at least one independent clause and one dependent clause.

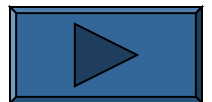
John cannot set up his typewriter

Independent Clause

because the wall has no outlet.

Subordinating
Conjunction

Dependent Clause



Quick Overview of Clauses

- Adjective clauses (tell what kind or which one)
 - Start with- that, which, who, whom, whose, before, since, when, where, why.
 - Example:
 - The sun never shines on days when I can enjoy it.
 - We ate cookies that were made from rice.



*Set off by commas only when meaning is not essential to the sentence.

Overview of clauses...

- Adverb clauses (tells where, when, in what way, to what extent under what condition or why)
- List of subordinating conjunctions
 - **After, since, when, although, so, that, whenever, as, supposing, where, because, than, whereas, before, that, wherever, but, that, though, whether, if, though, which, in order, that, till, while, lest, unless, who, no matter, until, why, how, what, even though**
- Example: I will help you with your history whenever you ask. He ran as if he had a twisted ankle. Jean wanted to stay longer because the band was good.

*If clause is at the beginning or in the middle
Of sentence it needs to be set off by commas



Overview of clauses...

■ Noun clauses (functions as the noun)

- Subject:
 - *Whoever you bring* will be welcome
- Direct Object:
 - The nomads can find *whatever water is in the desert*.
- Indirect Object:
 - The teacher gave *whoever presented an oral report* extra credit.
- Predicate Nominative:
 - The big question is *whether he will be allowed to play on the team*.
- Object of a Preposition:
 - They store their food in plastic or *whatever containers they have*.



Example- Complex Sentence

A **complex sentence** contains at least one independent clause and one dependent clause.

She will go to school in the city

Independent Clause

until she finds a job.

Subordinating
Conjunction

Dependent Clause



Complex Sentences

Use a comma after a dependent clause if it begins the sentence.

When I first moved to the city,

Subordinating
Conjunction

Use a comma if
the dependent
clause is the first
part of the
sentence.

I was afraid to drive the steep and narrow streets.

Independent
Clause



Compound-Complex Sentence

- Consists of two or more independent clauses and one or more subordinate clauses.

IND. CLAUSE

After a year, the first child is born, and the

IND. CLAUSE

baby receives the name

DEP. CLAUSE

that the doll was given

DEP. CLAUSE

when the bride was married



Practice Exercises



Now you are ready to practice what you've learned.

1. Diamonds and pearls are mined in different places.
2. When the lights went out, we felt extremely uneasy, but we always knew that morning would eventually come.
3. No one answered the phone when she called us.
4. The doll that the bride carries doesn't have arms.
5. Stand read the book Friday; he wrote his essay today.

