



# Sentence Structure

1. Clauses and phrases
2. Simple sentences
3. Compound sentences
4. Complex sentences
5. Answers to practice exercises

# 1. Clauses and phrases ...

Sentences are made up of clauses and phrases. All sentences must have at least one independent clause.

## What is a Clause?

A clause is a group of words which has:

1. **a subject**: focus of the clause, or someone or thing which does something in the clause
2. **a complete finite verb**: a verb which has a subject and a sense of time

- **The lecture finished at 3 pm**
- **Pollution causes cancer**
- **New Zealand is in the south Pacific**

## What is a Phrase?

A phrase is a group of words which either does not have a subject, or does not have a finite verb,

- Walks to work every day.
- The reason being a good child.
- Participation is necessary.

# Simple Sentences

1. A simple sentence contains a subject and a verb, and it may also have **an object** and **modifiers**.



a modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that functions as an adjective or adverb to provide additional information

However, it contains only one **independent clause**.



An independent clause expresses a complete thought and can stand on its own as a sentence

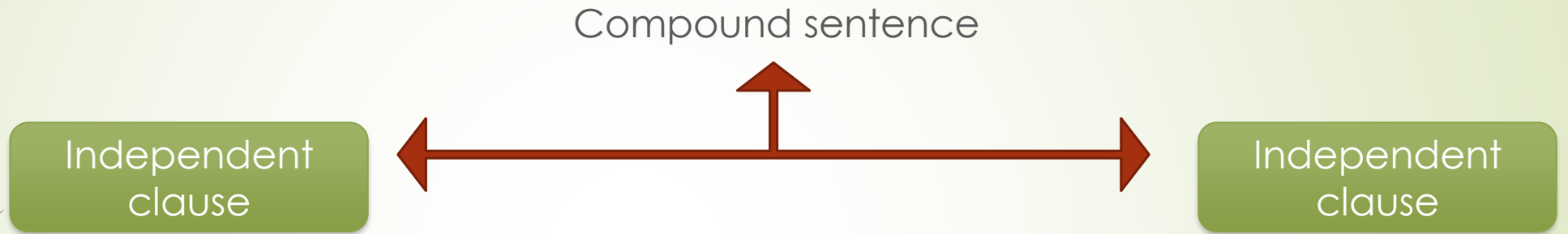


an object is a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase on which a verb performs an action

- The level of unemployment increased.
- The course includes practical report writing.
- The RMA was passed in 1991.

# Compound sentences

A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses.



- The bus stopped, **and** we got out.
- I enjoy playing tennis, **but** I hate playing golf.
- Learning a language is difficult ; **however** , it is worth the effort.
- All the details are attached to the following document; **furthermore** you can have access to our website.
- I really loved the movie, it was well directed, the actors acted very authentically. **Moreover** my friends also suggested that it was good

There are 02 ways to create a Compound sentence. These two independent clauses can be combined with a comma and a coordinating conjunction or with a semicolon.

**1. Compound sentences created with coordinating conjunctions. FANBOYS**


- ✓ **for and so (show logical consequence)**
- ✓ **and (shows addition)**
- ✓ **nor (shows addition of a negative point)**
- ✓ **but and yet (show contrast)**
- ✓ **or (shows choice)**

## 2. Compound sentences created with conjunctive adverb

A semicolon and a comma are used together when a conjunctive adverb separates two main clauses.

I wanted to go; however, I was too busy.

Here is a list of common conjunctive adverbs.



accordingly, furthermore, moreover, similarly,  
also, hence, namely, still,  
anyway, however, nevertheless, then,  
besides, incidentally, next, thereafter,  
certainly, indeed, nonetheless, therefore,  
consequently, instead, now, thus,  
finally, likewise, otherwise, undoubtedly,



# Complex sentences

A complex sentence has one independent clause and one or more **dependent** clauses.

A dependent clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb. It does not express a complete thought so it is not a sentence and can't stand alone.

## Complex sentence

Dependent Clause



Independent Clause

- Because she did not know the route well, she drove slowly.



Independent Clause



Dependent Clause

- She drove slowly because she did not know the route well



## Identifying Compound and Complex Sentences

### The Compound Sentence

A compound sentence is made up of two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, or so) and a comma or by a semicolon alone.

Example: The pirate captain lost her treasure map, but she still found the buried treasure.

### The Complex Sentence

A complex sentence combines a dependent clause with an independent clause. When the dependent clause is placed before the independent clause, the two clauses are divided by a comma; otherwise, no punctuation is necessary.

Example: Because the soup was too cold, I warmed it in the microwave.

# Compound Complex Sentences

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

- When the new structure was proposed in 2003, the Council at first refused to discuss the plans with community groups, but the Environment Court overruled the decision and insisted on a full consultation process.
- When I grow up, I want to be a ballerina, and my mom is proud of me.
- : Though Mitchell prefers watching romantic films, he rented the latest spy thriller, and he enjoyed it very much.
- Laura forgot her friend's birthday, so she sent her a card when she finally remembered.