

# SENTENCE STRUCTURE

## Simple Sentence

**Simple sentence** = **subject** = **ONE verb**

A simple sentence generally has a single clause, one main verb and communicates one idea. A simple sentence has a subject and ONLY ONE verb:

- ❖ It was raining.
- ❖ The cat purred quietly.
- ❖ Rebecca sang.
- ❖ The girl sprinted after the tiger.

### Coordinating Conjunctions

**FANBOYS**

**for, and, nor, because,  
or, yet, so**



## Compound Sentence

A compound sentence is formed when you join two main clauses (parts of sentences) with a conjunction. The clauses are linked by coordinating conjunctions (and, but, so, or).

**Compound sentence** = **main clause** + **conjunction** + **main clause**

- ❖ It was cold but we still went to town.
- ❖ It was raining so we stayed indoors.

This makes the two ideas equal in the sentence - if we take away one part of it, we are left with a single-clause sentence again.

## Complex Sentence

**Complex sentence** = **main clause** + **conjunction** + **subordinate clause**

A complex sentence joins a main clause and a subordinate clause with a conjunction. The subordinate clause relies on a main clause to make sense.

**The big dog barked whenever I knocked on the door.**

Conjunctions used in complex sentences include after, although, as, because, if, since and unless.

These tell us about the order or the place in which things happened or specify a cause or effect relationship between events.

### Subordinating Conjunctions

**A:** after, although, as, as if, as long as, as much as, as soon as, as though

**B:** because, before, by the time

**E:** even if, even though

**I:** if, in case

**O:** once, only if

**P:** provided that,

**S:** since, so that

**T:** than, that, though, till

**U:** unless, until

**W:** when, whenever, where, wherever, while

## Purpose of Sentences

### Statement

Tell us things. We tend to see these in school text books, in newspapers, or in an encyclopaedia.

**Paris is the capital of France.**

### Question

Ask us things or make us think about things.

**When did the First World War end?**

### Command

Tell which are also called commands. These tell us what to do, so we find these in instructions, recipes and signs.

**Put your rubbish in the bin.**

### Exclamation

Exclamations are shouted out. You would hear these at a football match, in arguments, or if you told a joke.

**What an amazing goal!**