

Sentence Structure

In english grammar, sentence structure is the arrangement of words, phrase and clause. There are two types of clauses: independent clause and dependent clause.

Independent clauses are complete sentence because they have a subject and verb and express a complete thought. Dependent clauses, in contrast cannot stand alone because they don't express a complete thought—even though they have a subject and verb.

Basic Types of Sentence

1. Simple Sentence

A simple sentence has one independent clause. That means it has one subject and verb—although either or both can be compound. In addition, a simple sentence can have adjectives and adverbs.

Examples of simple sentences:

- 1. Ali eats meat. 2. Ahmad likes coffee.*
- 3. My brother and I went to the mall last night.*

2. Compound Sentence

A compound sentence consists of two or more independent clauses. The independent clauses can be joined in one of two ways:

- With a co—ordinating conjunction for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so etc.*
- With a semicolon(;)*

Examples of compound sentence:

- 1. My brother and I went to the mall, but we did not buy anything.**
- 2. Our car broke down; we came last.**

3. Complex sentence

A complex sentence contains one or more independent clause and at least one dependent clause. The independent clause is called the "main clause". These sentences use sub—ordinating conjunctions to link ideas.

Until, while, when, where, whether, even though etc. are sub—ordinating clauses.

Examples:

- 1. I am happy, even though I don't make much money.**
- 2. After getting home from work, my brother and I went to the mall last night.**

4. Compound-complex sentence

A compound-complex sentence has at least two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause. The dependent clause can be part of the independent clause.

Examples:

- 1. Usually I take a walk everyday, while the sun sets, but it was raining today.**
- 2. Usama did not come in the class, because he was ill, so Ali was not happy.**