

SENTENCE TYPES

The following are the basic terms you will need to understand the various sentence types:

Subject: The noun that does the action in the sentence.

Examples: *Mary, Professor, dog, school, library, book, and clock*

Verb: Describes what the subject does in the sentence.

Examples: *Drink, eat, run, jump, study, and sleep*

Independent Clause: A complete sentence that can stand alone.

Example: *I love to study English.*

Dependent Clause: An incomplete sentence that needs to be attached to an independent clause.

Example: *Since the car did not start*

Sentence Types:

Simple: One independent clause.

Example: *English is the best subject.*

Compound: Two independent clauses which are joined together. There are three ways to accomplish this.

- **Semi-Colon:** *I like to write; I like to read.*
- **Semi-Colon with an adverbial conjunction (transition):**
He did not do his homework; therefore, his teacher lowered his grade.
- **A comma and a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS-For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So):**
Lilliana loves cookies, but she does not like cake.

Complex: A sentence that has one independent clause and one dependent clause. It has a subordinator, such as **because, since, when, while, if, or after**, that connects both clauses. (*Note: if the dependent clause begins the sentence, then use a comma after it.*)

Examples: *I went to the store because I needed food.*

Dependent Clause

Since she was tired, she slept through her alarm.

Dependent Clause: The sentence started with a dependent clause, so it needs a comma after it.

Compound-Complex: (*More advanced*) A sentence that has a dependent clause, an independent clause, a coordinating conjunction, and another independent clause. (*Note: Beware when using this type of sentence to punctuate it properly and avoid making a run-on sentence.*)

Example: *Although Gary missed his bus, he made it on time to class, but he forgot his backpack at home.*