THE CLASSIFICATION OF SENTENCES

1. The Simple Sentence

A simple sentence expresses a complete thought and has a subject and a verb. It may have a compound subject (more than one) or a compound verb or both.

We appreciate his contributions.
Krisdayanti and Reza are good singers.
He worked and succeeded with his ideas.
My older brother goes to a college and works part-time.
My father and mother speak and write English well.

2. The Compound Sentence

A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses connected by a coordinating conjunction (and, or, but, so).

A clause is a part of a sentence that contains a subject and a verb. There are two types of clauses : Independent Clauses and Dependent Clauses

- Independent Clauses
  The independent clause expresses a complete thought and has a subject and a verb. It can be used alone correctly as a simple sentence.
  Example : 1. It rained.
  2. It was cold and windy yesterday.

- Dependent Clauses
  The dependent clause is dependent for its understanding on the independent clause. It cannot be used alone. Subordinating conjunctions are used in the beginning of dependent clause.
  Example : 1. …….. because it rained ……
  2. ……. although it was cold and windy yesterday ……..

Subordinating conjunctions : because when if
before while
after although

3. The Complex Sentence

A complex sentence has one independent clause and one or more dependent clause.
The clauses in a complex sentence can be in any order. If the dependent clause is first, put a comma after it.
Example : 1. If I win the lottery, I will quit my job immediately.
2. After the dance ended, we went home.

Other examples of complex sentence :

1. Many Americans <u>who became famous athletes</u> practiced long hours.
   Dependent Clause
2. They waited outside <u>while the Italian officials checked our passports and luggage</u>.
   Dependent Clause

Write S if the sentence is simple and C if the sentence is compound. Add commas where they are needed.

____ 1. The summers in the Midwest are hot and humid.
____ 2. Every evening it was too hot to sleep so my sisters and I played outside until after dark.
____ 3. Our parents sat on the front porch and watched us play our children's games.
____ 4. We played games such as hide-and-seek and tag or we just sat around and told stories.
____ 5. We also caught fireflies in glass jars and watched them shine in the dark like tiny flashlights.
____ 6. My sisters were afraid of most bugs but they loved to catch fireflies.
____ 7. We usually had to go to bed at nine o'clock on really warm evenings we could stay up until ten.
____ 8. Between nine and ten o'clock our mother or our father told us to come inside to get ready for bed.
____ 9. Sometimes it was still hot in our small bedroom so our parents let us sleep outside in the backyard.
____ 10. In those days, parents didn't worry about crime and no one locked their front doors at night.

Identify the following sentences as simple, compound, or complex.

____ 1. Many poor boys became famous.
____ 2. Before he assumed his job, he prepared for it very carefully.
____ 3. Jerry made the best of a bad situation.
____ 4. He had a strong personality or he would never have risen to such heights.
____ 5. Clay was a brilliant orator, but Webster was the greatest of them all.
____ 6. Because he had a brilliant mind, Ford planned his horseless carriage.
____ 7. Thomas Edison, who made his first scientific experiment at the age of six, invented many things.
____ 8. Will Rogers enjoyed wealth and fame in abundance.
____ 9. Grant's tomb, which was built of granite, is located in New York.
____ 10. Grant and Lee were two famous generals.
____ 11. His memoirs, which were finished a week before his death, were sold by Mrs. Grant.
____ 12. U.S Grant served two terms as President, but he died a poor man.
____ 13. Clay was a member of the cabinet before Webster was ever in the Senate.
____ 14. They worked and fought side by side.
____ 15. Although my brothers love fishing, I hate it.
____ 16. If my brothers invite me to go fishing, I will say "No, thanks!"
____ 17. A friend of mine studied Japanese during his vacation because his company is going to send him to Japan to work.
____ 18. After people have been in the jungles of Guatemala, they may find the beaches of Florida little boring.

Sentence Patterns

"Sentence patterns" is just another way talk about the way a sentence is put together; the order of the elements in the sentence; sentence construction. Some sources say there are six English sentence patterns; some say eight. A few sources list even more. Here are the ones we feel are the most common, and the easiest to recognize:

1. Subject + Verb (S-V)
   This is the simplest kind of sentence. It consists of a subject, a verb, and possibly some adjectives, adverbs, or prepositional phrases. There are no direct objects, indirect objects, or complements.
   - Abraham speaks fluently. (subject, verb, adverb)
   - Many of the class members write well in class. (subject, verb, adverbs) (The "complete" subject is "Many of the class members"--a noun phrase.)

2. Verb + Subject (V-S)
   Sentences in English usually have the subject come first, followed by the verb. But when a sentence begins with *there is, there was, there are, there were*, the verb comes first, followed by the subject. The word *There* is never a subject!
   - There is a strange shadow in the woods. (verb, subject--the complete subject is the noun phrase *a strange shadow*, adverb)
   - There were no leftovers after the buffet. (verb, subject, adverb)

3. Subject + Verb + Direct Object (S-V-DO)
   - Andrew composes music. (subject, verb, direct object.)
   - Matthew helps others in several English practice rooms. (subject, verb, direct object, adverb)
   - Helen tells jokes to make people smile. (subject, verb, direct object, adverb)

4. Subject + Verb + Complement (S-V-SC)
   A **complement** is a **word** or group of words that **describe or rename** the subject. Complements follow a linking verb. There are two kinds of subject complements: **1) predicate nominative**, which is a noun or pronoun that renames or classifies the subject of the sentence and **2) predicate adjective,** which is an adjective that describes the subject of the sentence.
   - Mother looks tired. (subject, verb, complement--predicate adjective)
   - Some students in the class are engineers. (the noun phrase *Some students in the class* is the complete subject, verb, complement--predicate nominative)
   - The men are handsome, the women are clever, and the children are above-average. (compound sentence of three independent clauses, so three subjects, three verbs, three complements--all predicate adjectives)

5. Subject + Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object (S-V-IO-DO)

An indirect object tells *for whom* or *to whom*. If the indirect object comes after the direct object (in a prepositional phrase "to _____" or "for _____"), the sentence pattern is shown as **S-V-DO-IO**. Pronouns are usually used as indirect objects (but not always).

- I sent her a birthday present. (subject, verb, indirect object, direct object)
- Jay gave his dog a bone. (subject, verb, indirect object, direct object)
- Granny left Gary all of her money. (subject, verb, indirect object, direct object)
- Granny gave every last asset to Gary. (subject, verb, direct object, indirect object in a prepositional phrase)

6. Subject + Verb + Direct Object + Object Complement (S-V-DO-OC)

This pattern isn't as common as the others, but it is used. **An object complement is a word or group of words that renames, describes, or classifies the direct object.** Object complements are nouns or adjectives and follow the object.

- Debbie left the window open during the rain storm. (subject, verb, direct object, object complement, adverb)
- The class picked Susie class representative. (subject, verb, direct object, object complement)

References

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