

Four Sentence Types

All sentences must have an independent clause, but you can mix and match how many dependent or independent clauses you want to make more interesting and complicated sentences. There are four sentence types that use independent and dependent clauses differently.

Simple Sentences (S) have one main clause (IC) with a subject and verb, either of which can be compound.

ic I lost my passport.

Compound Sentences (CP) consist of at least two main clauses connected with a semicolon or a comma plus a coordinating conjunction.

ic I lost my passport, ic but I did not worry about it.

Complex Sentence (CX) have one main clause and at least one subordinate clause (DC)

dc Although I lost my passport, ic I did not worry about it.

Compound-Complex Sentences (CP-CX) have two or more main clauses and at least one dependent clause.

dc Although I lost my passport, ic I did not worry about it; ic I continued to enjoy my vacation.

27. GRAMMAR AND SENTENCES: Kinds of Sentences

(Study 22C, Clauses in Sentences; also suggested: 25B–E, Use Coordinating, Compounding Subordination, and Reduction)

Part 1

Classify each sentence (use the abbreviations in parentheses):

simple (sim)

complex (cx)

compound (cd)

compound-complex (cdcx)

Example: Hank opened the throttle, and the boat sped off.

cd

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| 1. The governor maintained that the state's finances were sound. | 1. _____ |
| 2. Ted Williams, whose .406 season batting average has been unequalled for more than sixty years, had amazingly sharp eyes. | 2. _____ |
| 3. Completion of the new library will be delayed unless funds become available. | 3. _____ |
| 4. Consider the matter carefully before you decide; your decision will be final. | 4. _____ |
| 5. This year, either medical companies or discount store chains are a good investment for the small investor. | 5. _____ |
| 6. The play, which was written and produced by a colleague, was well received by the audience. | 6. _____ |
| 7. The storm, which had caused much damage, subsided; we then continued on our hike. | 7. _____ |
| 8. We waited until all the spectators had left the gymnasium. | 8. _____ |
| 9. The argument having been settled, the meeting proceeded more or less amicably. | 9. _____ |
| 10. The prescription was supposed to cure my hives; instead it made my condition worse. | 10. _____ |
| 11. Tired of being a spy, he settled in Vermont and began writing his memoirs. | 11. _____ |
| 12. His chief worry was that he might reveal the secret by talking in his sleep. | 12. _____ |
| 13. The television special accurately portrayed life in the 1950s; critics, therefore, praised the production for its authenticity. | 13. _____ |
| 14. The story appearing in the school paper contained several inaccuracies. | 14. _____ |
| 15. The police officer picked up the package and inspected it carefully. | 15. _____ |
| 16. Because she was eager to get an early start, Sue packed the night before. | 16. _____ |
| 17. By 2080, there will be over one million Americans one hundred years old or older; this significant increase of centenarians will profoundly affect the health care system. | 17. _____ |
| 18. Noticing the late arrivals, the speaker motioned for them to be seated. | 18. _____ |
| 19. A study of people in their eighties revealed that most had a satisfying relationship with a family member or care provider; in other words, these older Americans were not lonely in their old age. | 19. _____ |
| 20. Through the thick fog rolling in from the sea, Courtney could barely discern the tail lights of a car farther along the beach. | 20. _____ |