Sentence Types

Sentences are classified in two ways: according to their structure (simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex) and according to their purpose (declarative, imperative, interrogative, and exclamatory).

*Sentence Structures:*

Depending on the number and types of clauses they contain, sentences are classified as simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex.

Clauses come in two varieties: independent and subordinate. An independent clause contains a subject and predicate (part of a simple sentence; contains the verb), and it either stands alone or could stand alone. A subordinate clause also contains a subject and predicate, but it functions within a sentence as an adjective, an adverb, or a noun; it cannot stand alone.

1. Simple Sentence: A simple sentence is one independent clause with no

subordinate clauses.

Ex: Jeffrey is scrolling the Gram.

2. Compound Sentence: A compound sentence is composed of two or more

independent clauses with no subordinate clauses. The independent clauses are usually joined with a comma and a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet) or with a semi-colon.

Ex: Jeffrey is scrolling the Gram, **and** Monica is posting her latest Tik Tok.

3. Complex Sentence: A complex sentence is composed of one independent

clause with one or more subordinate clauses.

Ex: Although Jeffrey is scrolling the Gram, Monica is posting her latest Tik Tok.

4. Compound-Complex Sentence: A compound-complex sentence contains at

least two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause.

Ex: Although Jeffrey is scrolling the Gram, Monica is posting her latest Tik Tok, and Peter is reading a book.

*Sentence Varieties:*

a) loose: the main idea is stated at the beginning, followed by subordinate material.

Ex: I will come tomorrow, if it doesn’t rain and if I can get the car started.

b) periodic: the subordinate material comes first, and the main idea concludes the

sentence; this creates suspense.

Ex: If it doesn’t rain and if I can get the car started, I will come.

c) short: short sentences bring pauses close together, slow movement, and produce

choppy rhythm.

d) long: longer sentences make the rhythm flow with less interruption.

*Sentence Purposes:*

A declarative sentence makes a statement.

Ex: Jack is obnoxious and loud.

An imperative sentence issues a request or a command.

Ex: Put that down immediately.

An interrogative sentence asks a question.

Ex: Are you sure you want to do that?

An exclamatory sentence makes an exclamation.

Ex: That was the most incredible thing I’ve ever seen!

Exercise A: Identify the following sentences and underline the parts of the sentence.

1. Upon opening the box, Aquilina was shocked to see its contents. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Jay-Qwon was happy to be home after his long trip, but he was already planning his next adventure. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Tim-Othy answered, “Present” when the teacher called his name. COMPLEX
4. Although the bus trip was long and boring, the students were quite happy to be in Earlton, for none of them had ever seen a cow before. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Jay-Quillin is scatterbrained. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Exercise B: Follow the instructions below to compose various sentences.

1. Compose a simple sentence which includes the word “rizz”.

1 IND.

rizz

Mr. Bain has no rizz.

1. Compose a compound sentence which includes the words “digital detox” and “thirst trap”.

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1. Compose a complex sentence which includes the names of four people (one of whom being Kirby); in the sentence, these four people must be on their way somewhere.

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1. Compose a compound-complex sentence which includes the words “douchebaggery”, “silver fox” and “vacay”.

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