Sentence Types

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: Jessica loves to jog.

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: *Jessica likes to bike, but she loves to jog.*

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

clause with one or more subordinate clauses.

Ex: *Although Jessica likes to bike, she loves to jog*.

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

least two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause.

Ex: *Although Jessica likes to bike, she loves to jog, and she tries to go for a run every day*.

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

1. Stuart hitched the horse to the wagon, and Charlie helped him. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Since Janet wanted to tie the canoe to the tree on the shore, she dragged it out of the water. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Frogs often eat spiders. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. As I approached the rabbit, it scampered across the clearing, and it disappeared into the blackberry bushes. COMPOUND-COMPLEX
5. The Nile is the longest river in Africa. SIMPLE

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

1. Compose a simple sentence which includes the verb “burp”.

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1. Compose a compound sentence which includes the word “anxious”.

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1. Compose a complex sentence which includes the words “tail”, “table”, and “movies”.

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1. Compose a compound-complex sentence which includes the words “barrel”, “cheese”, and “grape drink”.

~~Ind. #1~~

~~Ind. #2~~

~~Sub.~~

~~Coordinating Conjunction~~

~~barrel~~, ~~cheese~~, ~~grape drink~~

Although he took the grape drink, Bob ate pasta out of the barrel, and he put lots of cheese on it.