Study Guide

Simple, Compound, & Complex Sentences

A Simple Sentence may contain a Compound Subject is a subject with two or more nouns or pronouns joined by the word and or another conjunction. Compound subjects share the same predicate. Ask yourself the following when forming compound subjects.

- are both the subjects different?
- are both the predicates the same?
- If they are, take the subject from the 2nd sentence and add the conjunctions and or or and the subject from the 2nd sentence to the 1st sentence.
- do I have two or more nouns or pronouns?
- are my nouns or pronouns joined by and or another coordinating conjunctions?
- are my nouns or pronouns used in a series and if so did I use a comma?
- do my nouns or pronouns share one common verb?

Example:

Her shoes were covered with mud. Her ankles were covered with mud, too.

Compound Subject: Her [shoes] and [ankles] were covered with mud.

'Her shoes and ankles' is the compound subject.

The predicate in both the sentences is 'were covered with mud.'

A Simple Sentence may contain a Compound Predicate is a predicate with two or more verbs joined by the word and or another conjunction. Compound predicates share the same subject. Ask yourself the following when forming compound predicates.

- are the both subjects the same?
- are both the predicates different?
- If they are, delete the subject from the 2nd sentence and add the conjunctions and, or, or but.
- do I have two or more verbs
- are my verbs joined by the word and or another coordinating conjunction?
- do my verbs share a common subject?

Example:

Jan jumped on her bike. Jan rode around the block.

Compound Predicate: Jan [jumped] on her bike and [rode] around the block.

The compound predicate is 'jumped on her bike and rode around the block.' The subject in both the sentences is Jan.

A Simple Sentence may contain a Compound Subject and a Compound Predicate.

[Jan] and [Bill] [jumped] and [rode] around the block.

A Compound Sentence is a sentence with two or more simple sentences joined by the word and or another conjunction.

- delete the period, add a comma, and add a coordinating conjunction.
• be sure that the 2nd sentence has a subject.
• do I have two or more simple sentences?
• are my simple sentences joined by the word and or another coordinating conjunction?
• have I used a comma to the left of my coordinating conjunction?

Example:

Jan jumped on her bike. Mary followed on her bike.

**Compound Sentence:** [Jan jumped on her bike,] and [Mary followed on her bike.]

The **Complex Sentence** contains at least one independent clause & one dependent clause.

The **dependent clause** can come first or last. Use a comma (,) after a dependent clause that comes first.

Remember that a complex sentence is a simple sentence (independent clause) to which a part of a sentence (dependent clause) has been added. (The dependent clause needs the rest of the sentence for support.) A dependent clause contains a subject and verb. It begins with a subordinating conjunction, and thus it does not express a completed thought. A dependent clause is also called a subordinate clause. Dependent clauses are cliff hangers and cannot stand alone. Ask yourself the following when forming complex sentences.

• have I used a subordinating conjunction?
• if my dependent clause is at the beginning of my sentence, did I use a comma?

Example:

**Because I like to study grammar,** I love this class.

I love this class **because I like to study grammar**

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<th>Subordinating Conjunctions</th>
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