

# Sentence Structure/ Syntax Notes

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**Sentence:** A group of words with two main parts: (1) A \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) a \_\_\_\_\_. Together these parts express a complete thought.

## Subjects and Predicates

- A complete subject contains a \_\_\_\_\_, pronoun, or group of words acting as a noun, plus anything modifying that “noun.”
- A complete predicate consists of the \_\_\_\_\_ or verb phrase, plus any modifiers of the verb. The predicate tells what the complete subject is or does.

*Examples:*

Subject	Predicate

To write strong, interesting, paragraphs you need strong \_\_\_\_\_. Using a variety of sentence structures makes your writing more \_\_\_\_\_.

**These are 4 main types of sentence structures that you can design your sentences with.**

## Simple Sentences

A simple sentence: one \_\_\_\_\_ clause

- Contains a subject and a verb, and it expresses a \_\_\_\_\_ thought

*Examples (write one pre-written example):*

Practice: Write a simple sentence.

## Compound Sentences

A compound sentence contains two or more \_\_\_\_\_ clauses joined by a \_\_\_\_\_ (conjunction) or a semi-colon (;).

- Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Helpful hint: The first letter of each of the coordinators spells FANBOYS).
- Coordinators are almost always preceded by a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Examples* (write one pre-written example):

Practice: Write your own compound sentence.

## Complex Sentence

A complex sentence has an \_\_\_\_\_ clause joined by one or more \_\_\_\_\_ clauses.

- Complex sentences always have a \_\_\_\_\_ordinator (conjunction) such as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ OR always have a relative pronoun such as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_.

*Examples* (write TWO pre-written examples)

Practice: Write your own example of a complex sentence.

*Additional Practice:*

Label each sentence as simple, compound, or complex in structure.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Carrie did not have her cell phone with her, yet she quickly managed to get a message to her mother.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Karen cooked a marvelous meal for her dinner guests.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The boys decided to finish a project instead of playing video games.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Susan preferred going to a movie; Tom preferred going to a friend's house.

## Syntax (Sentence Structure) as a Stylistic Technique

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\_\_\_\_\_ : the way in which words are put together to form phrases, clauses, or sentences (Merriam Webster Online Dictionary).

### Sentence Structure

- Simple sentence
- Compound sentence
- Complex sentence
- Compound-complex sentence
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ sentences
- \_\_\_\_\_ sentences
  
- Short sentence + active verbs = \_\_\_\_\_
- Long sentence + adjectives + adverbs = \_\_\_\_\_

*She runs, bare legs being pelted with small rocks and dirt kicked up from her pink-slippered feet. It is cold outside.*

Vs.

*Small rocks and dirt kicked up from her pink-slippered feet pelt her bare legs. It is cold outside.*

## Fragmentation

Fragmentation can be effectively used in descriptive and narrative writing for:

- \_\_\_\_\_ the scene
- Presenting clinical \_\_\_\_\_
- (Added): Short, frantic thought

Ex: Nanga Parbat. Its summit guarded by the Rupal Face, the biggest mountain wall in the world. A murderous wall: sheer, best by storms and avalanches (Maria Coffey, *An Offering from the Dead*).

## Run-on Sentences

- Create natural \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (use in dialogue, if needed)
- Create a sense of urgency

She is running.

Through a thicket of forest, across overturned pebbles, beneath a starless sky. She is running, away from white walls, white beds, white-clad nurses, white thoughts, white, white, white, and into black and green and brown, although she's looking for blue.

Context is KEY! Use, not abuse!

**Activity:**

Use one of the pictures described, with a caption, to write a five-sentence, descriptive paragraph below. Use varied sentence structure that is appropriate to the situation.

**Picture A: “Bathroom Urgency.”**

**Picture B: “Stranger Danger” or “Love at First Sight”**