

# *Simple, Compound, Complex and Complex Sentences in Your Writing*

Dr. V. Singh Assistant Professor, P. G. Dept. of English  
Maharaja College Ara

*Once you know the difference between the three sentence types (simple, compound, and complex), is possible to write with sentence variety.*

*Sentence variety helps make your writing more interesting.*

# Simple Sentence

- ❖ *A simple sentence contains a subject and verb.*
- ❖ *It expresses a single complete thought.*
- ❖ *A simple sentence is a single independent clause.*

# Sample Simple Sentences

- ❖ *The cat crept through the dark house.*
  - ❖ *The wary mouse watched from underneath an upturned cereal box.*
  - ❖ *The predatory cat stopped and surveyed his surroundings.*
  - ❖ *The mouse darted for the safety of the nearly invisible hole under the cabinet.*
- Note that the words in *purple* are the *subject* of the sentence, the words in *green* are the *predicate*.

# Compound Sentences

- ❖ *A compound sentence contains two independent clauses.*
- ❖ *Conjunctions (for, and, nor, but, or, and yet, so) join these independent clauses. (Hint: The conjunctions spell FANBOYS.)*
- ❖ *The conjunction used can impact the meaning of the sentence.*

# Sample Compound Sentences

- × *The cat was unsuccessful in his attempt to catch the mouse, and the mouse was equally as unlucky in his attempt to get the cheese.*
  - × *The dog had watched all of this, but he had refused to become involved.*
  - × *The mouse could wait until dark, or he could risk a daylight raid on the pantry.*
  - × *The cat usually slept during the day, yet curiosity held him at the corner of the kitchen.*
- ❖ Note that the words in **red** are the **conjunctions**.

# Complex Sentences

❖ *A complex sentence is an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses.*

*A subordinating conjunction begins the dependent clauses.*

*A dependent clause that begins a sentence must be followed by comma.*

*A dependent clause has a subject and a verb, but it does not always make sense on its own.*

# Subordinating

<b>After</b>	<b>how</b>	<b>Until</b>
<b>Although</b>	<b>if</b>	<b>Unless</b>
<b>As</b>	<b>in as much</b>	<b>as if</b>
<b>in order that</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>as long as</b>
<b>At least</b>	<b>Whenever</b>	<b>as much as</b>
<b>now that</b>	<b>whereas</b>	<b>soon</b>
<b>wherever</b>	<b>as though</b>	<b>Since</b>
<b>While</b>	<b>because</b>	<b>so that</b>
<b>Before</b>	<b>even if</b>	<b>That</b>
<b>even though</b>	<b>though</b>	



# Sample Complex Sentences 9

- ❖ *After he gave it some thought, the mouse decided to wait until later for his trek.*
  - ❖~~x~~ *The cat fell asleep on the warm kitchen because he was deprived of sleep the night before.*
  - ❖ *When the mouse heard the soft snoring of his sleeping nemesis, he scurried to the pantry and grabbed enough food for a week.*
  - ❖ *The dedicated, feline sleuth keeps his nightly vigil even though the foresighted mouse will not be venturing out this week.*
- Note that the **subordinating conjunction** is in **orange** and the **dependant clause** is in **blue**.

# Compound-Complex Sentences

- ❖ A compound-complex sentence is a sentence that has at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.
- ❖
  - ▶ The same subordinating conjunctions are used to introduce the dependent clauses.
  - ▶ The same coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS) are used for joining the independent clauses.

# Sample Compound- Complex Sentences.

- ❖ *After the two adversaries had spent years playing this "cat and mouse" game, they were joined by their children, and the fun continued.*
- ❖ *Even though it seems the two were bent on the other's destruction, the cat and mouse were rather fond of one another, and neither wanted the other's defeat.*
- ❖ *This game was begun thousands of years ago, and it will continue far into the future as other cats and mice revel in hide-and- seek.*