



Compound, Complex, and Compound-Complex Sentences

Compound:

A compound sentence is a sentence composed of two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses. A compound sentence is not merely a compound subject or a compound predicate; it must consist of two independent clauses. A compound sentence is often joined with a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS: for, and, neither, but, or, yet, so).

Example: *Mr. Smith may have gone to Washington, but Washington refused to come to him.*

Complex:

A complex sentence is a sentence that contains at least one independent clause with one or more subordinate clauses. A subordinate clause in a complex sentence may be an independent clause; however, a subordinating conjunction such as *if, before, even though, since*, makes the independent clause subordinate to the independent clause of the sentence.

Example: *If you build it, he will come.*

Compound-Complex:

A compound-complex sentence is a sentence that contains at least two independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause.

Example: *Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.*