

Help Centres – English Support



Sentence Types

1. Simple Sentence: A simple sentence has **one independent clause** that expresses a complete thought. It must contain at least *one subject* and *one verb*

1. Sam loves swimming. 2. She doesn't like to swim in the ocean.
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2. Compound Sentence: A compound sentence has **two or more independent clauses** that can be joined by a coordinating *conjunction*, *conjunctive adverb*, or a *semicolon*.

1. Sam loves swimming, **but** she doesn't like to swim in the ocean.
Ind. clause (Conj.) Ind. clause
2. Sam loves swimming; **however**, she doesn't like to swim in the ocean.
Ind. clause (Conj. Adv.) Ind. clause
3. Sam loves swimming; she doesn't like to swim in the ocean.
Ind. clause (Semicolon) Ind. clause

Coordinating Conjunctions (FANBOYS): Addition: **and**; Result: **so**; Choice: **or**; Contrast: **but, yet**; Reason: **for**; Join Negative Ideas: **nor**

Common Conjunctive Adverbs:

Addition: **again, as well, also, in addition, furthermore, moreover, besides**

Result: **therefore, consequently, as a consequence, thus, as a result, in conclusion**

Contrast: **however, nevertheless, on the other hand, on the contrary**

Comparison: **similarly, like**

Example: **for example, for instance**

Summary: **in summary, briefly, in brief**

Emphasis: **in fact, indeed, especially**

Time: **first, second, now, later, next, then, last, finally, next week, tomorrow, soon, meanwhile, at the same time, suddenly**

3. Complex Sentence: A complex sentence has **one independent clause** and **one or more dependent clauses**. The dependent clause will have a *subordinating conjunction* or a *relative pronoun* attached to it.

1. **Even though** Sam loves swimming, she doesn't like to swim in the ocean.
 (Sub. Conj.) Dep. clause Ind. clause

Or

2. Sam doesn't like to swim in the ocean **even though** she loves swimming.
 Ind. clause (Sub. Conj.) Dep. Clause

Or

3. Sam, **who** loves swimming, doesn't like to swim in the ocean.
 (Rel. Prn) Dep. clause
 Ind. clause

Common Subordinating Conjunctions:

Cause: **as, because, since**

Contrast: **although, even though, though, despite, in spite of**

Time: **when, whenever, before, after, since, as soon as, as long as, until, during, while**

Place: **where, wherever**

Condition: **if, unless, when, as if, whether, in case, so long as**

Relative Pronouns: For People: **who, whose, whom;** For things: **that, which**

4. Compound-Complex Sentence: A compound-complex sentence must have **two or more independent clauses**, and **one or more dependent clauses**.

- (Sub. Conj) Dep. clause Ind. clause
 1. **Even though** Sam loves swimming, she doesn't like to swim in the ocean,
but she came to Willow's beach anyways.
 (conj.) Ind. Clause

- Ind. Clause
 (Rel. Prn) Dep. Clause (conj.)
 2. Sam, **who** loves swimming, doesn't like to swim in the ocean, **so** she didn't join us at Willow's beach today.
 Ind. Clause

Sentence Challenge

Bring your completed sentences for each sentence type to an instructional assistant in the ELD Help Centre, CBA 160, for feedback. Complete 5 or more sentences of one type before moving to the next type. In other words, you will complete at least 5 **simple** sentences before attempting the **compound** sentences.

1. 5 simple sentences

Tutor's initials	Student's initials
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- Include a variety of tenses (past, present perfect, future, etc.).
- 2 sentences should have a single subject and single verb.
- 2 sentences should have a single subject and double verb.
- 1 sentence should have double subject and double verb.

Possible topic: Studying at Camosun College, your life in Victoria – or your own topic

2. 5 compound sentences

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- Include a variety of phrases and tenses.
- Use at least four different coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS)

Possible topic: Your family, or your early school experiences – or your own topic

3. 5 complex sentences

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- Include a variety of phrases and tenses.
- 3 sentences should use adverb clauses, starting with subordinating conjunctions (*since, because, when, etc.*)
- 2 sentences should use relative clauses (*who, which, that, etc.*)

Possible topic: Places where you have lived, or your goals (past or future) – or your own topic

4. 5 compound-complex sentences

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- Include a variety of phrases and tenses.
- Include a variety of conjunctions and adverbs to join the clauses.

Possible topic: Your hobbies and interests, or challenges you have faced – or your own topic