

SENTENCE PATTERNS

SIMPLE SENTENCE

A simple sentence is one independent clause (IC). Independent clauses are also referred to as main clauses (MC). It may have more than one subject and more than one verb, but no more than one complete thought.

Examples: Susan went to the mall with her friend. (one subject, one verb)
Susan and her friend went to the mall. (two subjects, one verb)
Susan drove to the mall and went to a movie. (one subject, two verbs)
Susan and her friend drove to the mall and went to a movie. (two subjects, two verbs)

COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence includes two or more independent clauses joined together in one of three ways:

(1) A comma plus a coordinating conjunction: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so* (the "FANBOYS")

Examples: Alicia and Greg argued frequently, **for** they both had strong personalities.

IC/MC

IC/MC

The couple did not get along well together, **but** they did not want to separate.

IC/MC

IC/MC

(2) A semicolon, a conjunctive adverb (also known as an "adverbial conjunction"), and a comma

Conjunctive adverbs have meanings similar to the coordinating conjunctions, but they sound slightly more formal than the shorter conjunctions.

Examples: The trip was fantastic; **therefore**, we decided to stay another day.

We arrived to the restaurant soon after it opened; **however**, there were no tables available.

(3) A semicolon

A semicolon should be used only if your sentences are similar in grammatical structure and if the subjects are closely related.

Last year, I read James Baldwin's *Go Tell It on the Mountain*; tonight I saw the television version of that book.

COMPLEX SENTENCE

A complex sentence includes a dependent clause (DC) and an independent clause. Dependent clauses are also referred to as subordinate clauses (SC). Dependent clauses always begin with a "subordinator."

If the dependent (subordinate) clause is first and is followed by an independent clause, a comma is used:

After we left the game, we stopped at the Olive Garden.

DC/SC

IC/MC

However, if the independent clause is first, no comma is used:

I stopped at the grocery store after work because I was out of milk and bread.

IC/MC

DC/SC

MEANINGS OF COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS:

To add an idea:	and
To add an idea when the first clause is in the negative:	nor
To contrast two opposing ideas:	but, yet
To introduce a reason:	for
To show a choice:	or
To introduce a result:	so (is different from "so that"--see below)

FREQUENTLY USED ADVERBIAL CONJUNCTIONS: (adverbial conjunctions should always be preceded by a semi-colon and followed by a comma)

<u>Addition (and)</u>	<u>Alternative (or)</u>	<u>Contrast (but, yet)</u>	<u>Result (so)</u>
in addition	instead	however	accordingly
also	otherwise	nevertheless	consequently
besides		nonetheless	hence
furthermore	<u>Emphasis</u>		therefore
likewise	indeed	<u>To Show Time</u>	thus
moreover	in fact	meanwhile	
		next	

MEANINGS OF SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS:

- To introduce a *condition*: if, even if, as long as
provided that
unless (after a negative independent clause)

I will go *as long as* you go with me.
I won't go *unless* you go with me.

- To introduce a *contrast*: although, even though, though (use a comma before these conjunctions)

I will go, *even though* you won't go with me.

- To show *cause*: because, since

I will go *because* the meeting is very important.

- To show *time*: after, before, when, whenever, while
until (independent clause is negative)

I will go *whenever* you say.
I won't go *until* you say it is time.

- To show *place*: where, wherever

I will go *wherever* you send me.

- To show *purpose* in order that, so that

I will go *so that* I can hear the candidate for myself.