

**PHRASES, CLAUSES, TYPES OF  
SENTENCES & BASIC SENTENCE  
PATTERNS**

## ?What is a phrase

A phrase is a small group of words that forms a meaningful unit within a clause. There are several different types, as follows

### Noun phrase

A noun phrase is built around a single noun, for example:

**A vase of roses** stood on the table.

She was reading **a book about the emancipation of women.**

### Verb phrase

A verb phrase is the verbal part of a clause, for example:

She **had been living** in London.

I **will be going** to college next year.

## Adjective phrase

An adjective phrase is built around an adjective, for example:

He's led a **very interesting** life.

A lot of the kids are **really keen** on football.

## Adverbial phrase

An adverbial phrase is built round an adverb by adding words before and/or after it, for example:

The economy recovered **very slowly**.

They wanted to leave the country **as fast as possible**.

## Prepositional phrase

In a prepositional phrase the preposition always comes at the beginning, for example:

I longed to live **near the sea**.

The dog was hiding **under the kitchen table**.

# ?What is a clause

- A group of words which contains at least a subject and a verb.

For example:

*Biology is an interesting science.*  
*Because the flight was cancelled,*  
*That earth revolves around the sun*

There are two kinds of clauses:

- Independent clause
- Dependent clause

# Kinds of Clauses

- **Independent Clause**

It contains a subject and a verb (and a complement). It expresses a complete thought, and can stand by itself. It is a simple sentence.

Examples: *The sun rose.*

*Fresh water boils at 100 C.*

*It has been raining all day.*

# Kinds of Clauses

- **Dependent Clause**

It begins with a **subordinator\***; e.g., because, after, since, as, where, ... ..; or a **relative pronoun**; e.g., *who, that, ....*

It does not express a complete thought. It is called a sentence fragment. A dependent clause is formed with a subordinator or a relative pronoun, a subject, and a verb. It needs an independent clause to complete its meaning.

# Examples:

*When the sun rose,*

*If the drought continues for another year,*

*When the phone rang,*

*Although Nina won the prize,*

*That earth revolves around the sun*

*When Ahmad went to the library*

*Who is wearing a red T-shirt*

*Whose book is interesting*

*Whether Ahmad passed the exam (or not)*

*If there is a warranty on the compute*

# What is a sentence?

It is a group of words which is made of one or more **clauses**. It expresses a complete thought.

## Types of sentences:

There are four basic types of sentences:

- Declarative (**Statement**) □ (e.g., I am a teacher.)
- Interrogative (**Question**) □ (e.g., where is he?)
- Imperative (**Command**) □ (e.g., Close the door.)
- Exclamatory □ (e.g., you shouted at her!)



# Basic sentence patterns

There are four patterns of sentences in English:

1. Simple sentences
2. Compound sentences
3. Complex sentences
4. Compound/complex sentences

# 1. Simple sentences

It is the most basic type of a sentence. It is made of one independent clause, and expresses a complete thought.

Example:

*We bought tickets for the football match.*

*Run!*

*Rami works in a post office.*

*The grading system at our college should be abolished.*

# Simple sentences

More examples:

*New York City is very cosmopolitan with people from different backgrounds and nationalities.*

*Educational systems in the West teach students independence.*

*Printed newspapers will become out of date next decade.*

*However, online newspapers will be available for all readers.*

*My English speaking class is made of Chinese, Italians, and Vietnamese.*

# Simple sentences

More examples:

*Both wind and sun are clean energy sources.*

*Government and private agencies have spent millions to educate people about the effect of smoking.*

*Alicia went home and cooked lunch.*

In the first two sentences, there is a compound subject. However, the two sentences are simple. The third sentence has one subject and two verbs ( compound verb). It is also a simple sentence.

# Compound sentences .2

It contains two or more independent clauses. They are joined in three ways. (supplementary booklet)

***Sarah went to school.*** independent clause

***Her sister went shopping.*** independent clause

First method:

a coordinator ( coordinating conjunction)

***Sarah went to school, and her sister went shopping.***

# Compound sentences

## Coordinating conjunctions:

Independent clauses are joined by a coordinator in order to form a compound sentence.

There are seven coordinators: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so. (FANBOYS).\* There is a comma placed before the coordinator. Each coordinator has a meaning and the choice of a coordinator depends on the relationship between the two clauses.

*I wanted to buy a new bag, so I started to save my money.*

\* Supplementary booklet: appendix C

# Compound sentences

Example:

*Football is a popular game, and its fans shriek with excitement.*

*Be quiet and listen!*

*I have never visited Asia, nor have I visited Africa.\**

*The little boy did not like to go to school, yet he went anyway.*

*Tracy went to the market, but she forgot her money, so she went back home.*

*\*notice the structure of the second clause (a question not a statement).*

# Compound sentences

Second method:

a semicolon

*Sarah went to school; her sister went shopping.*

Third method:

an adverbial conjunction

*Sarah went to school; however, her sister went shopping.*



# Compound sentences

## Semicolon:

Two independent clauses are joined with a semicolon.

No words or extra punctuation marks are needed.

Example:

*Noura works in Riyadh; her husband works in Kharj.*

# Compound sentences

## Adverbial conjunction:\*

After the first independent clause, put a semicolon, an adverbial conjunction, and a comma. Then write the second clause. Each adverb has a meaning and the choice of an adverb depends on the relationship between the two clauses e.g. *consequently, also, in addition, for instance, likewise, furthermore, in contrast*.....

\* Supplementary booklet: appendix C,

# Compound sentences

## Examples:

Players obey the rules; otherwise, they receive penalties.

Football players are careful; however, they still get hurt often.

We arrived early; consequently, we found a good place to sit.

Tuitions at a community college are low; in contrast, tuitions at private schools are high.

### 3. Complex Sentences

It has one or more dependent clauses (i.e. noun clauses, adverb clauses, and adjective clauses) joined to **one** independent clause by a subordinator or relative pronoun such as *although, when, before, that, since, who, if whether...*

- **Although** women in the USA could own **property**, they couldn't vote until 1920.
- Men **who** are not married are called bachelors.
- **When** you visit Seattle, you should bring a raincoat and umbrella.

\* Supplementary booklet: appendix C

# Complex Sentences

- The subordinating clause becomes dependent on something else to complete its meaning:

*When I went to the store yesterday, I saw an old friend. \**

*I saw an old friend when I went to the store yesterday. \**

*\* Notice the punctuation.*

# Complex sentences

## Examples:

Scientists don't know what causes autism.

That there is a hole in the Ozone layer is well known.

When Ali handed in his homework, he forgot to give the teacher the last page.

The students are studying because they have a test tomorrow.

# Complex sentences

## Examples:

After they finished studying, Juan and Maria went shopping.

An orphanage is a place where orphans live.

My computer , which I bought last week, stopped working.

We should ask when the bus arrives.

I can't remember if I locked the door.

## 4. Compound-Complex Sentences

It has at least three clauses. Two of which are independent. Instead of joining two simple sentences, you combine a simple sentence with a complex one, or two complex sentences.



# Compound-Complex Sentences

## Examples:

*The package arrived in the morning, **but** the courier left **before** I could check the content.*

*I wanted to travel **after** I graduated from college; **however**, I had to work immediately.*

***After** I graduated from college, I wanted to travel, **but** I had to work immediately.*

# More Examples on all sentence types

Mary hasn't read the chapter, **nor** has she written the essay. **Compound sentence**

Fred is antisocial, **yet** he has few friends. **Compound sentence**

In rural areas of developing countries, women are often underfed, **and** they are also overworked. **Compound sentence**

Listen to me! **Simple sentence**

# More Examples on all sentence types

In very poor countries, girls often suffer from malnutrition; **in contrast**, their brothers do not, **for** they are more valued than their sisters. **Compound sentence**

Sarah's eyes are always sparkling with joy; **still**, they hold a deep sadness. **Compound sentence**

The professor said **that** a man's lung is larger than a woman's; **as a result**, men take fewer breaths per minute. **Compound/ complex sentence**

# More Examples on all sentence types

Leaving his country was a big sacrifice, **yet** it was a lifetime opportunity. **Compound sentence**

We should give Ann a raise, **or** we should give her a vacation. **Compound sentence**

We should give Ann a raise, or a vacation. **Simple sentence**

**Because** Ahmad loved the idea of studying abroad, his parents encouraged him; **in addition**, his boss supported him. **Compound/ complex sentence**

# More Examples on all sentence types

After he arrived in New York, he was excited yet afraid.

Complex sentence

Ahmad calls his mother everyday; **otherwise**, she would think that there is something wrong. Compound/complex sentence

The dinner was delicious; **nevertheless**, it was overpriced.

Compound sentence

Because the meal was expensive, we decided not to dine here again, **yet** we went there again. Compound/complex sentence

# More Examples on all sentence types

After we had lunch, we decided to go shopping, **but** Noura forgot her wallet, **so** we went back home. **Compound/complex sentence**

When you visit Seattle, you should bring a raincoat and umbrella. **Complex sentence**

My grandfather couldn't read nor write , **yet** he was a wise person. **Compound sentence**

I love my father **though** we disagree a lot **because** we are from different generations. **Complex sentence**

# More Examples on all sentence types

She took a physics class with the professor who won the Noble prize. **Complex sentence**

My father teaches algebra, which I don't enjoy. **Complex sentence**

The subject that I really enjoy is mathematics. **Complex sentence**

Since electricity is expensive, my mother buys energy-saving appliances, **for** she wants to save money and protect nature. **Compound/ complex sentence**

# More Examples on all sentence types

Men are more muscular than women; **however**, women often do the hardest physical labor because they are considered inferior to men. **Compound/complex sentence**

He had never been away from his family, **nor** had he been out of Bahrain. **Compound sentence**

Jasmine left New York to India, **for** she wanted to meet her family. **Compound sentence**

In Canada, families whose incomes are low do not pay taxes. **Complex sentence**



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