

Sentence Structure: Sentence Types

Sentence Types

- Simple
- Compound
- Complex
- Compound-Complex

Basic Elements of Every Sentence

SUBJECT

PREDICATE

Basic Elements

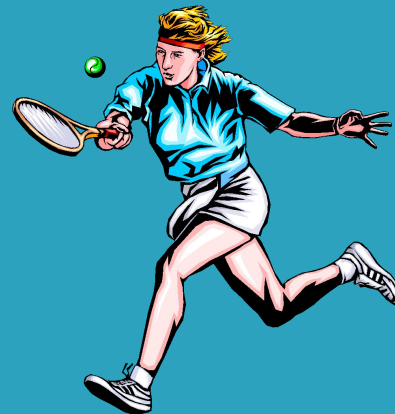
SUBJECT

PREDICATE



Mary

plays tennis.



Simple Sentence

Simple Sentence

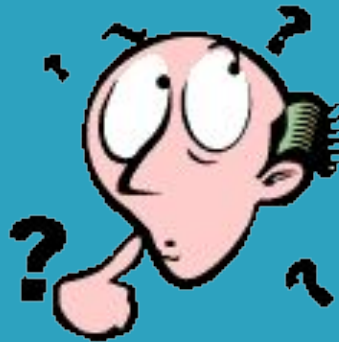
- A simple sentence has one subject and one predicate.



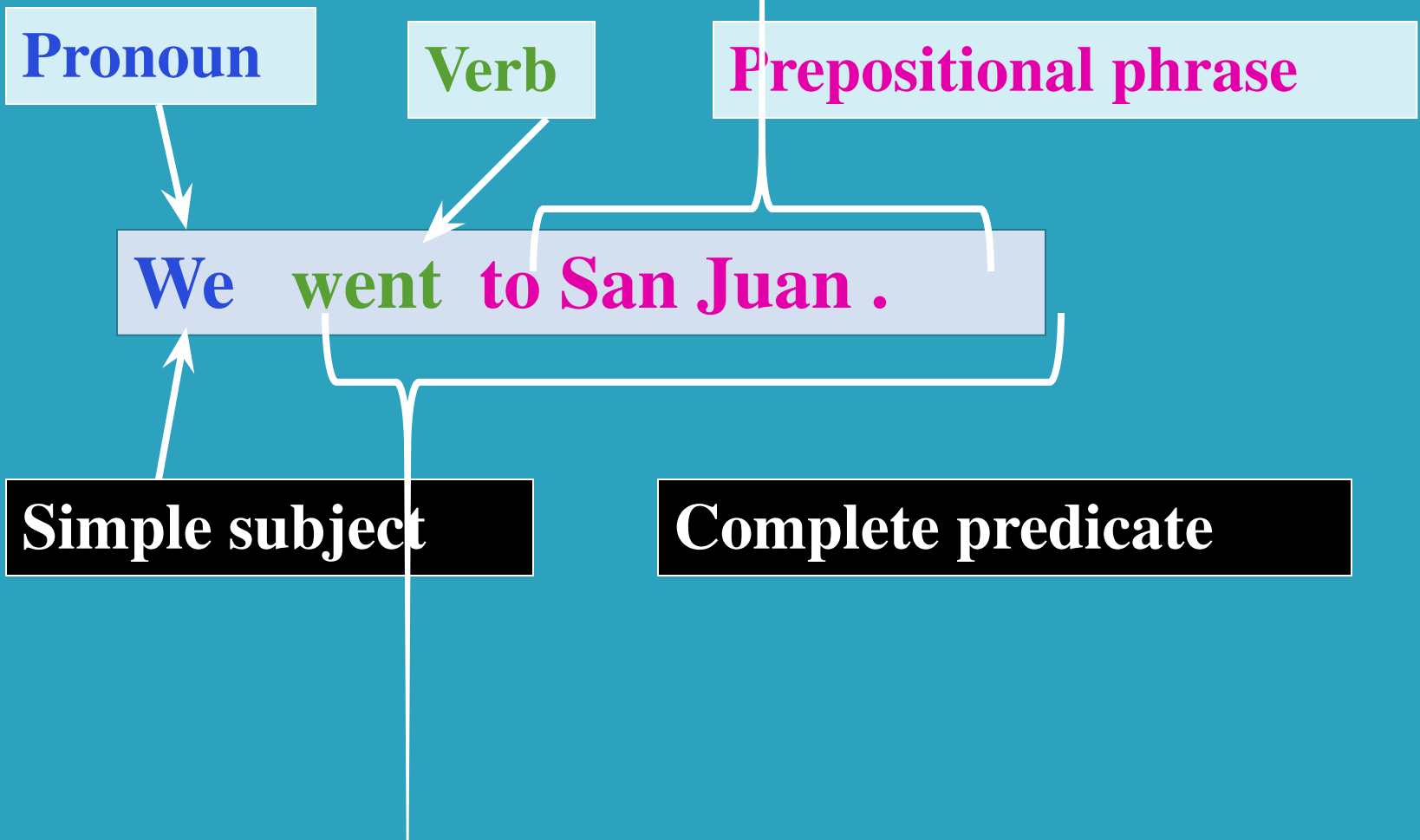
Simple Sentence

Observe how a simple sentence is constructed:

We went to San Juan yesterday.



Simple Sentence



SIMPLE SENTENCE

SUBJECT

PREDICATE



Mary

plays tennis.

one subject

one predicate



Simple Sentence

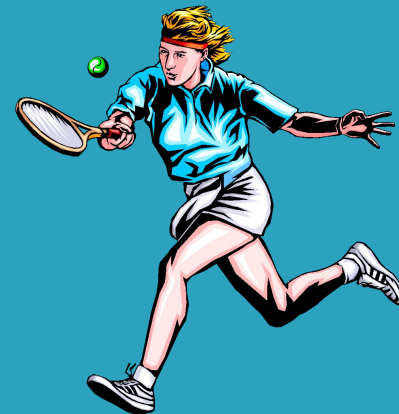
Tom and Mary

play tennis.

Compound Subject



&



Simple Sentence

Tom and Mary

play tennis and swim.

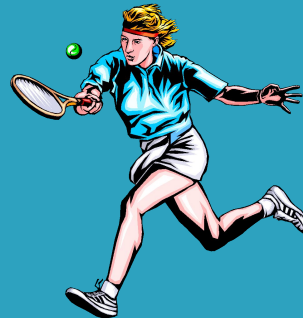
Compound Subject



&



Compound Predicate



&



SIMPLE SENTENCE
with compound subject

*Tom **and** Mary play tennis.*

SIMPLE SENTENCE
with compound subject
and
compound predicate

*Tom **and** Mary play tennis **and**
swim.*

Compound Sentence

Compound Sentence

- A compound sentence has more than one part that can stand alone (independent clauses).
- Independent clauses are connected by coordinating conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs or a semi-colon.

Compound Sentence



We went to San Juan, and

most of us danced all night.

Compound Sentence

Subject

Verb

Prepositional phrase

We **went** **to San Juan,**

Coordinating
Conjunction

Predicate

and **most of us** **danced** **all night .**

Subject

Verb

Modifying phrase

Compound Sentence

Use of Coordinating Conjunctions

SUBJECT

PREDICATE

and

SUBJECT

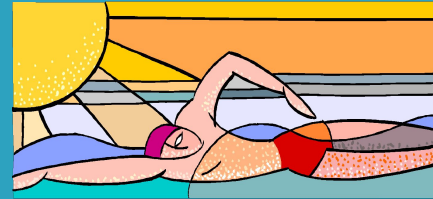
PREDICATE

Compound Sentence

Tom



swims,

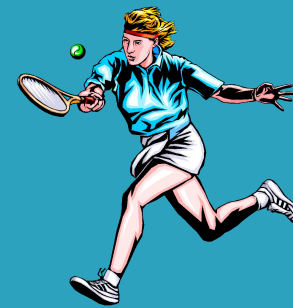


and

Mary



plays tennis.



COMPOUND SENTENCE: *COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS*

FOR

AND

NOR

BUT

OR

YET

SO

COMPOUND SENTENCE: *COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS*

Tom swims, **and** Mary plays tennis.

Clause 1

Independent

Clause 2

Independent

COMPOUND SENTENCE: *COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS*

Tom swims, **and** Mary plays tennis.

Comma before
“and”
in compound
sentences!



COMPOUND SENTENCE: *CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS*

MOREOVER

HOWEVER

OTHERWISE

THEREFORE

COMPOUND SENTENCE: *CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS*

Bob is handsome; **moreover**, he is rich.

Clause 1

Independent

Clause 2

Independent

COMPOUND SENTENCE: *CONJUNCTIVE ADVERBS*

Bob is handsome; **moreover**, he is rich.

Note: Semicolon
before conjunctive
adverb and comma
after conjunctive adverb!



Conjunctive Adverbs “float”

- Conjunctive adverbs are sometimes called “floating” adverbs because they can be positioned at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a clause.

CONJUNCTIVE ADVERB:

AT THE BEGINNING, IN THE MIDDLE, AT THE END

Bob is handsome; **moreover**, he is rich.

Bob is handsome; he is, **moreover**, rich.

Bob is handsome; he is rich, **moreover**.

Semicolons

- “If the relation between the ideas expressed in the main clauses is very close and obvious without a conjunction, you can separate the clauses with a semicolon” (*Little, Brown Handbook, 9th Edition, p. 361*).

**COMPOUND SENTENCE:
*SEMICOLON***

Tom has benefited from his exercise program; he is slim and energetic.

Complex Sentence

Complex Sentence

- A complex sentence has at least two parts: one that can stand alone and another one that cannot
- The part that cannot stand alone is linked to the rest of the sentence by a **subordinating conjunction**

Complex Sentence

Since my boyfriend and I wanted to have fun,

we went to San Juan yesterday.



Complex Sentence

Since we wanted to have fun,

Subordinating
Conjunction

Part that cannot stand alone

Subject

Predicate

we went to San Juan yesterday.

Complex Sentence

SUBJECT

PREDICATE

even though

SUBJECT

PREDICATE

Complex Sentence

Bob

is popular

even though

he

is ugly.

COMPLEX SENTENCE: *SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS*

The most common subordinating conjunctions are **"after," "although," "as," "because," "before," "how," "if," "once," "since," "than," "that," "though," "till," "until," "when," "where," "whether," and "while."**

COMPLEX SENTENCE: *SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS*

*Bob is popular **even though** he is ugly.*

Clause 1

Clause 2

Independent

Dependent

COMPLEX SENTENCE: *SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS*

Even though *Bob is ugly, he is popular.*

Clause 1

Dependent

Clause 2

Independent

Compound-Complex Sentence

Compound-Complex Sentence

- This type of sentence has more than one part that can stand alone, and at least one that cannot.
- Conjunctions link the different parts of this sentence.

Compound-Complex Sentence

Since we wanted to have fun,

my boyfriend and I went to San Juan yesterday,

and we danced all night.

Compound-Complex Sentence

**Subordinating
Conjunction**

Since we wanted to have fun,

Part that cannot stand alone

my boyfriend and I went to San Juan,

**Coordinating
Conjunction**

Subject

Predicate

and we danced all night.

Compound-Complex Sentence

Mike

is popular

because

he

is good looking,

but

he

is not very happy.

Exercises

Say if the following sentences are:

Simple, compound, complex or
compound-complex.

1. The bell rang.
2. Bridget ran the first part of the race, and Tara biked the second part.
3. He stands at the bottom of the cliff while the climber moves up the rock.
4. The skier turned and jumped.
5. *Naoki passed the test because he studied hard and understood the material.*

Answers

1. Simple
2. Compound
3. Complex
4. Simple
5. Compound-complex

1. Because Kayla has so much climbing experience , we asked her to lead our group.
2. You and I need piano lessons.
3. I planned to go to the hockey game, but I couldn't get tickets.
4. Dorothy likes white water rafting, but she also enjoys kayaking.
5. *There are many problems to solve before this program can be used, but engineers believe that they will be able to solve them soon.*

Answers

1. Complex
2. Simple
3. Compound
4. Compound
5. Compound-complex

References

Writing Academic English, Second Edition, by Alice Oshima and Ann Hogue. White Plains: Addison, Wesley, Longman, 1999.

The Little, Brown Handbook, by H. Ramsey Fowler and Jane E. Aaron, Pearson, 2004.