

**7.1.** The elements of a sentence are the essential components that make up a grammatical English sentence.

Consider the following stretches of language. Are they sentences?

e.g. are playing football in the garden the boys

What's missing in each one?

→ to make a sentence, we need two constituents: the subject + the predicate (= what is said about the subject, i.e. all the words in a sentence except the subject).

The Sentence elements are:

[ S ] the subject is easily identifiable – by asking who? – he, children, my mother, someone [ V ] a verb is the most important element of a sentence - verb - are playing

[ O ] - object - football

[ A ] – adverbial: is a group of words that performs the function of an adverb eg: in the garden (=time, place, manner)

[ C ] – complement: is a word that completes the sense of a sentence, is used after a copular verb e.g. He is clever.

When a sentence does not have these elements, it is called a fragment.

Nouns and pronouns are used in sentences in a variety of ways:

1. Subjects - karima enjoys working in the ABLE Program.
2. Objects of Prepositions - Karima enjoys working in the ABLE Program.
3. Direct Objects –In the sentence, 'She gave her a present' -the direct is present
4. Indirect Objects –In the sentence, 'She gave her a present' the indirect object is- her
5. Predicate Nominatives – In one grandmother's opinion, Rose is the cutest baby in the whole, wide world!
6. Direct Address – Rhida, it's time to eat lunch.

## 7.2. Types of Sentences

Sentences are divided into four categories: simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences, and compound-complex sentences.

### Simple Sentences

Definition A simple sentence contains one independent clause.

1. A simple sentence contains a subject and verb and expresses one complete thought.
2. A simple sentence can stand on its own.
3. A simple sentence is also called an independent clause.

4. In a simple sentence, the subject, verb, or both may be compound (more than one).

Examples

☐ Juan slept. (singular subject, singular verb)

☐ Juan and Bobby slept. (compound subject, singular verb)

☐ Juan and Bobby ate and slept. (compound subject, compound verb)

### 7.2.1. Compound Sentences

#### Definition

1. A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses and expresses more than one complete thought.

2. Independent clauses are joined by a comma and coordinating conjunctions or a semicolon without a coordinating conjunction.

Examples

☐ Bobby likes watching TV, but she prefers going to the movies.

☐ Bobby likes watching TV; John enjoys exercising on the treadmill

Coordinating Conjunctions

And or nor

for so but yet

### 7.2.2. Complex Sentences

1. A complex sentence contains an independent clause and a dependent clause. A dependent clause may contain a subject and a verb, however, it cannot stand alone because it is dependent on an independent clause for completeness.

☐ She rarely takes vacations because she is the CEO.

dependent clause                      Because she is the CEO

independent clause                      She rarely takes vacations

A comma is not needed because the independent clause comes first

2. A dependent clause that appears at the beginning of a complex sentence is set off by a comma.

If you are going to walk to school, be sure to stay on the path.

dependent clause                      If you are going to walk to school

independent clause                      Be sure to stay on the path

Because the dependent clause comes first, the comma is needed Subordinate conjunctions introduce a dependent clause in a complex sentence.

after                so  
although as    so that  
as                that  
as if            though  
as long as    unless  
as though    until  
because    when  
before    where  
if            whereas  
in order that while since

### 7.2.3. Compound-Complex Sentences

#### Definition

❓ A compound-complex sentence combines complex sentence and compound sentence forms. A compound-complex sentence contains one or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

#### Examples

❓ Although she felt guilty for missing her friend's birthday, she took her out to dinner the next day, and they had a great time.

❓ I try to eat healthy food, but because fast food is so convenient, I cannot maintain a healthy diet.

❓ If he got the job, he would have to commute 50 miles to work, so he decided the job was not worth it.

### 7.3. Fragments

1. A sentence fragment does not express a complete thought because it does not contain a subject and predicate. A fragment may also be a dependent clause. For these reasons, a fragment cannot stand alone as a complete sentence.

❓ Enjoyed the movie. (no subject)

❓ Speaking of movies, Joe, Lucy, and I. (no predicate)

❓ Although I enjoyed the movie. (dependent clause, missing a complete thought)

2. To fix a fragment, add the missing component or join it with a complete sentence (independent clause).

❓ I enjoyed the movie.

❓ Speaking of movies, Joe, Lucy, and I saw Frozen yesterday.

❓ Although I enjoyed the movie, I prefer romantic comedies.

## Run-ons

1. A run-on sentence occurs when a writer places no punctuation between independent clauses.

❑ Bobby likes movies John likes vacations.

2. To fix a run-on sentence, use one of these constructions

❑ Bobby likes movies. John likes vacations. (added period)

❑ Bobby likes movies, and John likes vacations. (added comma and coordinating conjunction)

❑ Bobby likes movies; John likes vacations. (added semicolon)

❑ Although Bobby likes movies, John likes vacations. (adds a subordinating conjunction)

## Practice

Supply commas where needed.

Examples: Susan stayed home from work because she was ill.  
Because she was ill, Susan stayed home from work.

1. Stanley will remain president of the club as long as everyone has confidence in him.
2. Whenever we decide to ride the bus, it is usually late.
3. Several people have fallen on the ice since the city has not cleared the sidewalks.
4. Brad runs more often than any of his friends do.
5. Paula is very comfortable when she is wearing her blue jeans.
6. As you enter the room, please close the door behind you.
7. Rita and Bob walked to the service station after their truck had broken down.
8. While I was doing my homework, my brother kept interrupting me.
9. Unless the news is important, you should not disturb others while they're sleeping.
10. Although the movie has already started, I plan to hurry to the theater.
11. Joan studied for her math test before she did her history assignment.

## 7.4. Form of sentences

In the study of grammar there are two main issues: function and form.

Speaking about form, we will identify various phrases in a sentence:

Phrase – a word or more words built around the head word

a) noun phrase – My watch has disappeared.

d) adverb phrase – She answered quite rapidly.

b) verb phrase - My watch has disappeared.

e) prepositional phrase – The keys were on the desk.

c) adjective phrase – She sounded a bit doubtful.