

A Simple Sentence...

One complete thought.

Has a subject (a noun) and a doing word (a verb).

Is an independent clause.

Two (or more) simple sentences joined together using a conjunction (and, but, for, so, nor, because, yet).

A Compound Sentence...

An independent clause, coupled with a dependent clause.

Clauses joined with the following conjunctions: while, after, though, when, whereas, wherever, as, unless, since, although, if, until, where.

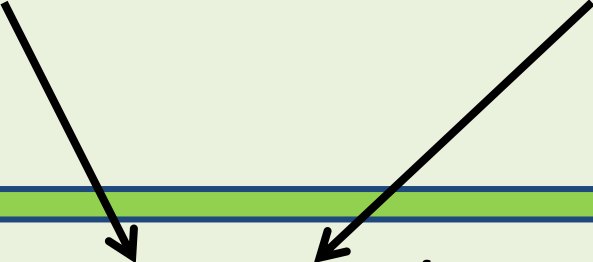
A Complex Sentence...

A Simple Sentence...

...is one complete thought.

...is an **independent** clause.

...has a subject (noun) and a doing word (verb).



The man sat down.

A Compound Sentence...

...is two (or more) simple sentences joined together by a **conjunction** (for, and, nor, but, because, or, yet, so).

...contains two (or more) **independent** clauses.

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The man sat down and it started to rain.

A Complex Sentence...

...contains a conjunction (while, after, though, when, whereas, wherever, as, unless, since, although, if, until, where, even though).

...has a dependent clause & an independent clause.



When the man sat down, it started to rain.

The diagram shows the sentence "When the man sat down, it started to rain." enclosed in a large orange rectangular border. The words "When the man sat down" are circled in red, and "it started to rain." is circled in green. Two black arrows point from the underlined text in the previous block to these two circles.

The independent clause can also begin the sentence...

It started to rain when the main sat down.