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What are the 5 sentence structures

In What is a Sentence? we saw the minimum requirements for the formation of a sentence. Now we can look in more detail at the four types of sentence structure. Simple Sentence Structure A simple sentence consists of one independent clause. (An independent clause contains a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.) I like coffee. Mary likes tea. The earth goes round the sun. Mary did not go to the party. Compound Sentence Structure A compound sentence is two (or more) independent clauses joined by a conjunction or semicolon. Each of these clauses could form a sentence alone. I like coffee and Mary likes tea. Mary went to work but John went to the party. Our car broke down; we came last. There are seven coordinating conjunctions: and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so Complex Sentence Structure A complex sentence consists of an independent clause plus a dependent clause. (A dependent clause starts with a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun, and contains a subject and verb, but does not express a complete thought.) We missed our plane because we were late. Our dog barks when she hears a noise. He left in a hurry after he got a phone call. Do you know the man who is talking to Mary? Here are some common subordinating conjunctions: after, although, as, because, before, how, if, once, since, than, that, though, till, until, when, where, whether, while Here are the five basic relative pronouns: that, which, who, whom, whose Compound-Complex Sentence Structure A compound-complex sentence consists of at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses. John didn't come because he was ill so Mary was not happy. He left in a hurry after he got a phone call but he came back five minutes later. A dependent clause is also called a subordinate clause. The above sentences are basic examples only. In some cases other arrangements are possible (for example, a dependent clause can come before an independent clause). Contributor: Josef Essberger Sentence Structure Quiz When I was growing up, English teachers drove a specific rule into our developing writer brains: Do not start a sentence with a conjunction. This, my friends, is incorrect. In case you need a little grammar brush-up sesh, a conjunction is a word that connects phrases or clauses. "And," "but" and "or" are the three most common, but the English language has seven conjunctions, which you can remember with the acronym FANBOYS: For And Nor But Or Yet So It's okay to shove any of those right up to the front of a sentence. It's okay now and it has been okay as long as humans have been writing. Ever read the Bible? In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. Plus, Grammar Girl—whom I trust implicitly—says basically every modern grammar book and style guide agree that it's fine. For example, the Chicago Manual of Style says this about it: There is a widespread belief—one with no historical or grammatical foundation—that it is an error to begin a sentence with a conjunction such as and, but or so. In fact, a substantial percentage (often as many as 10 percent) of the sentences in first-rate writing begin with conjunctions. It has been so for centuries, and even the most conservative grammarians have followed this practice. Perhaps at some point the practice of conjunction-sentence-starting was seeming to get out of hand and teachers felt they had to ban the practice altogether. Abstinence vs. moderation, if you will. That was an overreaction, and we've all suffered for it. What should you not do, though? You should not go crazy tossing commas after these conjunctions when you use them at the start of the sentence. But, maybe you really feel like one should go there. And, you would be wrong. The exception, in my opinion, is with the word "so." I like a little comma action when I start a sentence with "so." And this guy at Just Publishing Advice agrees with me: For me, the word so at the beginning of a sentence is a conjunctive adverb like therefore. So, I would use a comma in both instances. So, I missed the 5:26 pm train, and then 5:55 pm, but finally made the 6:25 pm train. Therefore, there I was, stood up and stranded for the second time. But for the other six conjunctions, you would not normally use a comma. However, Lifehacker Deputy Editor Alice Bradley disagrees with me and that guy; she is very much anti-comma-after-so. So I'm just going to drop this little sentence here—with a comma!—to see what she does. There are three types of sentences: simple, compound, and complex. The type of sentence is determined by how many clauses, or subject-verb groups, are included in the sentence. A simple sentence structure has one independent clause: "I rode my bike." A compound sentence has at least two independent clauses: "I got in my car, and I drove into town." In that sentence, both clauses can stand on their own as complete sentences. A complex sentence includes an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses: "I got in my car and then went to town." In that sentence, "I got in my car" works as a complete sentence but "then went to town" does not. Most sentences in English are constructed using one of the following five patterns: Subject-Verb Subject-Verb-Object Subject-Verb-Adjective Subject-Verb-Adverb Subject-Verb-Noun The subject is the person or thing taking an action or being described in the sentence. The verb is the action the subject takes. Subject-Verb This type of sentence begins with a core sentence such as "Jane walks." Here, "Jane" is the subject and "walks" is the verb. Different parts of speech can be added to expand the sentence. You can add an adverb to make the sentence "Jane walks quickly," or you can add an expression of time to tell when she walks, e.g., "Jane walks all morning." Subject-Verb-Object These sentences begin with a core sentence such as "She is playing a piano." In this sentence, "She" is the subject, "is playing" is the verb, and "a piano" is the object. You can add elements to expand the sentence, such as an adjective (e.g., "She is playing a small piano") or an adverb (e.g., "She is playing the piano beautifully"). Subject-Verb-Adjective This type of sentence begins with a core sentence like "He is handsome." Here, "he" is the subject, "is" is the verb, and "handsome" is the adjective. Like the other types of sentences, you can expand on the sentence by adding other parts of speech, such as "He is very handsome," where "very" serves as an adverb. Subject-Verb-Adverb These sentences begin with a core sentence such as "The girl walked away." In this sentence, "the girl" is the subject, "walked" is the verb, and "away" is the adverb. You can add elements to this type of sentence, such as "The girl slowly walked away," where "slowly" is an adjective describing how the girl walked. Subject-Verb-Noun Sentences of this type begin with a core sentence such as "The professor is a woman." Here, "the professor" is the subject, "is" is the verb, and "a woman" is the noun. As with the other sentence types, you can add words or phrases to expand on the sentence. For example, you can add the adjective "intelligent" and the adverbial phrase "at the university" to say "The professor at the university is an intelligent woman" to describe the professor more and tell where she works. Now that you know how to form sentences in English – based on your new knowledge of the basic English sentence structure, check out our article on Basic English punctuation to learn how to properly punctuate them. Bonus info: style guides for media are a great way to learn about clear and concise writing – a good place to start is the BBC News style guide. Read more Best practice content writing Resources Expert proofreading online Proofreading services Copy-editing services A sentence is a group of words that are put together to make one complete thought. Click Here for Step-by-Step Rules, Stories and Exercises to Practice All English Tenses Intro To understand sentence structures in the English language, you must first have a general understanding of the types of words that are used to make sentences. Noun – a person, place or thing Singular examples (one): brother, home, sock, mouse Plural examples (more than one): brothers, homes, socks, mice Examples: jump, sit, talk, have Examples: colorful shirt, funny story, tall boy Examples: jumped yesterday, talks fast, sings loud, very pretty, luckily for us Example: The dog jumped. The subject of this sentence is the noun, dog, because it is performing the action of jumping. Example: Dogs and cats sleep. The subjects of this sentence are the nouns, dogs and cats. This is called a compound subject because there is more than one subject performing the same action. Example: The child drank milk. The object of this sentence is the noun, milk, because the child is drinking the milk. The milk is receiving the action. Example: She is eating bread and cheese. The objects of this sentence are the nouns, bread and cheese. The subject is eating them both. There are five basic sentence structures in the English language. Examples: The boy plays. Jack eats. Sara sits. Examples: The girl pets the cat. I love apples. Bill kicks the ball. Examples: Lisa is pretty. They are nice. I am sad. Examples: Maria laughs loudly. The dog jumps high. Apples are everywhere. Examples: I am the teacher. Jon is a carpenter. The boy is a student. The examples above are basic sentences. Basic sentences can be expanded, or lengthened, by adding adjectives, adverbs and objects. Jack eats. This is the basic subject-verb pattern. Jack quickly eats. An adverb is added (quickly) to tell how Jack eats. Jack quickly eats carrots. An object is added (carrots) to tell what Jack eats. Jack quickly eats carrots at home. Another adverb is added (at home) to tell where Jack eats. Jack quickly eats fresh carrots at home. An adjective is added (fresh) to tell what kind of carrots Jack eats. Bill kicks the ball. This is a basic subject-verb-object pattern. Bill kicks the red ball. An adjective is added (red) to tell the color of the ball. Bill kicks the red ball hard. An adverb is added (hard) to tell how Bill kicks the ball. Bill kicks the red ball hard every day. Another adverb is added (every day) to tell when Bill kicks the ball. She looks pretty. This is the basic subject-verb-adjective pattern. She looks pretty tonight. An adverb is added (tonight) to tell when she looks pretty. Lisa looks pretty tonight. The subject is identified with a name (Lisa). Apples are everywhere. This is the basic subject-verb-adverb pattern. Green apples are everywhere. An adjective is added (green) to describe the apples. Ripe, green apples are everywhere. A series of adjectives are added (ripe and green) to describe the apples. The boy is a student. This is the basic subject-verb-noun sentence pattern. Jon is a student. The subject is identified with a name (Jon). Jon is a smart student. An adjective is added (smart) to tell what kind of student Jon is. Jon is a smart student at school. An adverb is added (at school) to tell where Jon is a smart student. Please share this page with others:

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