

Types of Sentences

There are four basic types of sentences. Once you understand the rules for creating them, you will be well on your way to writing at the college level.

1. **Simple Sentence**: Subject + Verb + Complete thought

A simple sentence can also be called an *independent clause (IC)*.

Example of a simple sentence (or *independent clause*):

Nga had to take the bus to Cabrillo. (*Nga* is pronounced like “say”)

2. **Compound Sentence**: Independent Clause (IC) + Independent Clause (IC)

Two simple sentences (*independent clauses*) that make sense by themselves are combined to indicate a relationship between two thoughts and form a *compound sentence*.

Example of a *compound sentence*:

Nga lost her car keys, so she had to take the bus to Cabrillo.

3. **Complex Sentence**: Dependent Clause (DC) + Independent Clause (IC) (or vice versa)

A *phrase* that has a subject, verb and complete thought, but does not make sense by itself is called a *dependent clause*. When a *dependent clause* is combined with an independent clause, a *complex sentence* is created.

Example of a *complex sentence*:

Since Nga lost her car keys, she had to take the bus to Cabrillo.

4. **Complex-Compound Sentence**: Dependent Clause (DC) + Independent Clause (IC) + Independent Clause (IC)

A complex-compound sentence is formed by having at least one *dependent clause* before or after two *independent clauses*. Once you understand the above, the possible combinations are endless.

Example of a *complex-compound sentence*:

Since Nga lost her car keys, she had to take the bus to Cabrillo, and she was late for her biology class.

The following pages will teach you how to create these four types of sentences. Although you will need to refer to these pages often at first, you will eventually understand the different types of sentences and be able to use them to make your writing more interesting and easier to understand. Don't hesitate to ask questions!