**Types Of English Sentences**

**Simple Sentence**

A **simple sentence**contains one independent clause.

What’s an “independent clause”? It’s one **subject** followed by one **verb or verb phrase**. It expresses a single idea.

**Examples of simple sentences:**

* **I‘m happy.**
* **Robert doesn’t eat meat.**
* **My brother and I** **went to the mall last night.**
* **This new laptop computer** **has already crashed twice.**

Notice that a “simple sentence” isn’t necessarily short. The subject can be a single word like “I” or “Robert,” or it can be a double subject like “my brother and I,” or it can be multiple words describing a single person/object, like “This new laptop computer.”

**Compound Sentence**

A **compound sentence**has two independent clauses joined by a linking word (and, but, or, so, yet, however).

Each independent clause could be a sentence by itself, but we connect them with a**linking word:**

* **I‘m happy, but my kids are always complaining.**
* **Robert doesn’t eat meat, so Barbara made a special vegetarian dish for him.**
* **My brother and I went to the mall last night, but we didn’t buy anything.**
* **This new laptop computer has already crashed twice, and I have no idea why.**

Note that each sentence has TWO subjects and TWO verb phrases.

**Complex Sentence**

A **complex sentence** has one independent clause and one or more **dependent clauses**.

A dependent clause cannot be a complete sentence by itself.

* **I’m happy, even though I don’t make much money.**
* **Robert, a friend I’ve known since high school, doesn’t eat meat.**
* **My brother and I went to the mall last night, while my sister stayed home and studied.**
* **This new laptop computer, which I bought yesterday, has already crashed twice.**

**Compound-Complex Sentence**

A **compound-complex sentence**contains 3 or more clauses: 2 independent and at least 1 dependent clause.

* **I’m happy, even though I don’t make much money, but my kids are always complaining since we can’t afford to buy the newest toys.**

*Independent clauses: “I’m happy” and “my kids are always complaining”  
Dependent clauses: “even though I don’t make much money” and “since we can’t afford to buy the newest toys”  
Linking word: “but”*

* **Robert, a friend I’ve known since high school, doesn’t eat meat – so Barbara made a special vegetarian dish for him.**

*Independent clauses: “Robert doesn’t eat meat” and “Barbara made a special vegetarian dish for him”*  
*Dependent clause: “a friend I’ve known since high school”*  
*Linking word: “so”*

* **My brother and I went to the mall last night, while my sister stayed home and studied because she has a test coming up.**

*Independent clauses: “My brother and I went to the mall last night” and “my sister stayed home and studied”*  
*Dependent clause: “because she has a test coming up”*  
*Linking word: “while”*

* **This new laptop computer, which I bought yesterday, has already crashed twice; however, I have no idea why.**

*Independent clauses: “This new laptop computer has already crashed twice” and “I have no idea why”*  
*Dependent clause: “which I bought yesterday”*  
*Linking word: “however”*