Module 1: SENTENCE STRUCTURE - TYPES OF SENTENCES



A. English sentence structure:

The following statements are true about sentences in English:

- *1.* A new sentence begins with a **capital letter**.
- *E.g.*: *He* obtained his degree.
- 2. A sentence ends with **punctuation** (a period, a question mark, or an exclamation point).
- E.g.: He obtained his degree. / Is this website safe?
- 3. A sentence contains a subject that is only given once.
- *E.g.: Smith he obtained his degree.*
- 4. A sentence contains a verb or a verb phrase.
- *E.g.: He obtained his degree.*
- 5. A sentence follows **Subject** + **Verb** + (**Object**) word order.
- E.g.: He (subject) obtained (verb) his degree (object).
- 6. A sentence must have a complete idea that stands alone. This is also called an independent clause.
- E.g.: He obtained his degree. (an independent clause)
- (x) <u>Because</u> he reads many books. (a dependent clause, not a complete sentence)

B. Types of sentences

1. Simple Sentences

- A simple sentence contains **a subject and a verb**, and it may also have an object and modifiers. However, it contains only one independent clause. e.g.: <u>She slept</u>. (S + V)

<u>She completed her literature review</u>. (S + V + O)

<u>*He* organized his sources by theme</u>. (S + V + O + Preposition phrase)

<u>They studied</u> <u>APA rules for many hours.</u> (S + V + O + Preposition phrase)

2. Compound Sentences

A compound sentence contains at least **two independent clauses**. These two independent clauses can be combined with **a comma (,)** and **a coordinating conjunction** or with **a semicolon (;)**.

E.g.: She completed her literature review, and she created her reference list.

Independent clause 1 , **conj** independent clause 2

He organized his sources by theme; then, he updated his reference list.

Independent clause 1 ; adv, independent clause 2

3. Complex Sentences

A complex sentence contains at least **one independent clause** and at least **one dependent clause**. Dependent clauses can refer to the subject (who, which) the sequence/time (since, while), or the causal elements (because, if) of the independent clause.

E.g.: *Although* she completed her literature review, she still needed to work on her methods section.

Independent clause

They studied APA rules for many hours as they were so interesting

Independent clause Dependent clause

4. Compound-Complex Sentences

A compound-complex sentence contains at least **two independent** clauses and at least **one dependent** clause.

E.g.: She completed her literature review, but she still needs to work on her methods section

Independent clause 1, conj Independent clause 2

even though she finished her methods course last semester.

Dependent 1

Dependent clause

Notes: Using different types of sentences in writing allows for more sentence variety.

Writing Strategy Series