

AEI Online
Grammar Lab
Session 6
Sentence Types

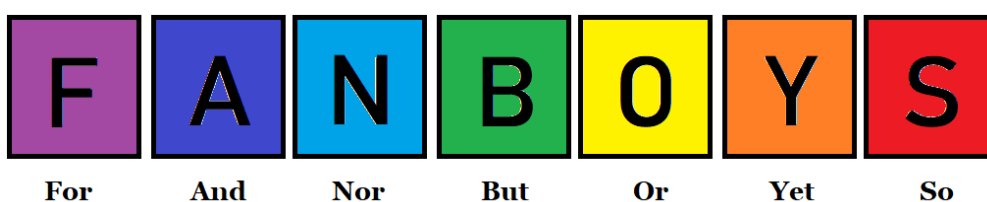
1. What are the four types of sentences? _____

2. A simple sentence cannot have _____
_____.
3. The FANBOYS are what type of conjunction?
 - a. Subordinating
 - b. Adverbial
 - c. Coordinating
 - d. Nominal
4. Why would someone use an em dash (–) to join two independent clauses?

5. An em dash is longer than a _____.
6. If you use “nor” as a coordinating conjunction to join two clauses, the second clause must be _____ (the verb must be placed before the subject).
7. In the following sentence, is Khant ever early or not? _____
Khant is never late, nor is he early
8. Can a complex sentence have more than one independent clause?

9. Give three examples of subordinating conjunctions:

10. The ideal sentence length is _____ words.



Sentence Types



In Session 5, we discussed the basic parts of a sentence and learned that clauses are the building blocks of sentences. We also reviewed independent and dependent clauses and looked at the three types of dependent clauses: nominal (noun), relative (adjective), and subordinate (adverbial).

There are four types of sentences: **simple**, **compound**, **complex**, and **compound-complex**. If you understand dependent and independent clauses, then you can easily understand these four types of sentences.

	Independent Clauses	Dependent Clauses
Simple	1	0
Compound	2+	0
Complex	1	1+
Compound-Complex	2+	1+

Simple Sentences

A simple sentence has one independent clause. That's all. A simple sentence cannot have another independent clause or any dependent clauses. Let's look at some examples:

Myanmar has many palm trees.

One subject + one verb

Myanmar and Thailand have many palm trees.

Compound subject + one verb

Myanmar has many palm trees and is incredibly beautiful.

One subject + compound verb

Myanmar and Thailand have many palm trees and are incredibly beautiful.

Compound subject + compound verb



Notice that it is okay to have a compound subject, a compound verb, and even a compound **object**. These are still simple sentences because the verb/verbs share the same subject/subjects and express one complete thought. There is only one independent clause (only one subject/verb set).



Write Your Own:

Create your own example **simple** sentences.

Vocabulary

1. **Incredibly**: adverb; very
2. **Object**: remember from Lesson 5, an object is a noun or noun phrase that receives the action of the verb in the sentence

Compound Sentences

A **compound sentence** has two or more independent clauses. It does not have any dependent clauses. There are three ways that you can join the independent clauses:

1. With a comma (,) plus a **coordinating conjunction** (the **FANBOYS**: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*)
I have a cat, and he is fat.
2. With a **semicolon** (;) (if the two clauses are equal)
I have a cat; he is fat.
3. With an **em dash** (–)* (if the last clause should be emphasized)
I have a cat – he is fat!



*An em dash (–) is not the same as a hyphen (-). Em dashes join clauses. Hyphens join words. An em dash is 2x longer than a hyphen.

Let's look at some more examples of compound sentences:

- *Hnin went to Bagan during Thingyan, but Thiha went to Mrauk-U.*
- *I like mohingar; my husband prefers ohn no khao swè.*
- *She won the scholarship to Chulalongkorn University – I can't believe it!*
- *Khant is never late, nor is he early.* (Khant is never late, and he is never early)

Look at the last sentence. The sentence structure, or **syntax**, is unusual, right? “Nor” can be used in many ways. If it is used to join two independent clauses, the structure becomes advanced with special grammar rules:

Grammar Rules for “Nor” to Join Independent Clauses:

1. The first clause has to be a negative clause (with *no, not, never, neither, nor*, and so on). British English has more relaxed rules for “nor” compared to American English. In British English, a negative word is not required if the negative meaning is easily understood. In the following two examples, only the first is acceptable in American English. Both are acceptable in British English:
 - *Aung did not submit his homework on time, nor did he study.*
 - *Aung submitted his paper late, nor did he study.*
2. The second clause must be **inverted**. That means that the verb must be placed before the subject. We will look at other **inversions** in future lessons.



Write Your Own:

Create your own example **compound** sentences.

Vocabulary

1. **Syntax**: noun; the arrangement of words and phrases to create sentences
2. **Inversion**: noun; a reversal in sentence order (when the subject and verb are inverted)

Complex Sentences

A **complex sentence** has one (only one) independent clause and at least one dependent clause. We saw some examples of complex sentences in Session 5.

Remember, in a complex sentence, the independent clause is the main clause. Remember also that we can use **interrogative pronouns** (*what, who, whom, and whose*) and **interrogative adverbs** (*why, where, how, and when*), **relative pronouns** (*that, which, who, whom, whose, when, where*) and **subordinating conjunctions** (**I SAW A WABUB**: *if, since, as, when, although, while, after, before, until, because, etc.*) to join a dependent clause to the main clause. We also saw examples of “*that*” clauses.

I	S	A	W	A	W	A	B	U	B
If	Since	As	When	Although	While	After	Before	Until	Because

Let’s look at some more examples of compound sentences below. Notice that a comma is used if a dependent clause is before the main clause. The interrogative pronouns, interrogative adverbs, subordinating conjunctions, and relative pronouns are underlined. Grey shows the independent clauses, and blue shows the dependent clauses.

- *I will not go to the market until my husband wakes up.*
- *While I was ironing, my dog ate my homework.*
- *Even though Thida Htay loves Win, she will not accept the proposal that he made last Friday.*
- *I cannot visit the town where you were born if you don’t go with me.*
- *Please tell me what you want.*
- *I cried because I accidentally hurt myself.*



Quick Breakout Room Task:

Classify each type of dependent clause above as nominal, relative, or subordinate. Use Lesson 5 to guide you.

Write Your Own:

Create your own example **complex** sentences.

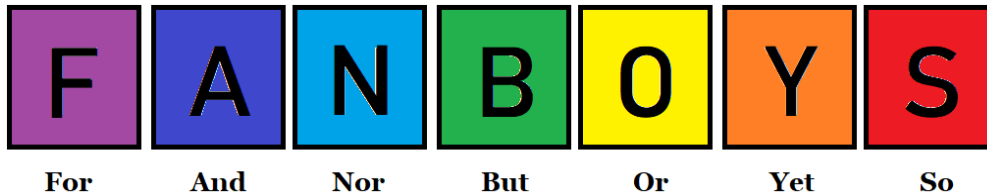


Special Note: Mastering **complex** sentences can help you score a band 6 or above for the grammatical range in the IELTS writing section.

Compound-Complex Sentences

A **compound-complex sentence** has two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause. The dependent clause can be part of the independent clause.

We can use interrogative pronouns, relative pronouns and subordinating conjunctions to join dependent clauses, and we can use **semicolons** (;), **em dashes** (–), and **coordinating conjunctions**, (**the FANBOYS**; *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*) to join independent clauses together.



Let's look at some examples of compound-complex sentences below. The interrogative pronouns, interrogative adverbs, subordinating conjunctions, relative pronouns, and coordinating conjunctions are underlined. Grey shows the independent clauses, and blue shows the dependent clauses.

- When we arrived at the hotel, Marlar greeted us, but Hein was not there.
- I planned to drive to Pyin Oo Lwin during Thadingyut, but I couldn't because my car broke down.
- They spoke to him in Burmese, but he responded in English since he wanted to practice.
- If you go to the market tomorrow before your father leaves for work, I will go with you, and I will help you.
- I talked to Nge Lay last night, and she was kind to me, but I still don't feel comfortable with her because she married my ex.
- I wanted to tell you that although I have met Htun, who is my sister's husband, I have not really talked to him a lot.
- We will go to Ngapali Beach next month – I'm so excited since I have never been there!
- After you submit the proposal, I will call Pyae Phyo Win; he will review it quickly.



Write Your Own:

Create your own example **compound-complex** sentences.



Special Note: Long sentences can be **exhausting** (**tiring**) for your reader. The ideal sentence length is 15-20 words. A great deal of students think that longer sentences show more skill, but that is not true. Longer sentences annoy your reader, especially if there are many ideas in the sentence. Using long sentences in writing should be done **sparingly** (**carefully/rarely**), and I advise only one long sentence per page of writing – or none at all.

Identify the Sentence Structures

You must determine each sentence type (**simple, compound, complex, compound-complex**).



Tip: Identify the clause or clauses of each sentence by underlining each subject/verb pair that you can find. Then, determine whether the clause is independent or dependent by searching for **interrogative pronouns, interrogative adverbs, subordinating conjunctions, relative pronouns, coordinating conjunctions, semicolons, and em dashes**. The first sentence is done for you.

1. *Last month, I visited the place where my mother grew up.*

Number of Independent Clauses: **1**

Number of Dependent Clauses: **1 (a "where" relative clause)**

Sentence Type: **Complex**

2. *People from Mandalay are elegant.*

Number of Independent Clauses: _____

Number of Dependent Clauses: _____

Sentence Type: _____

3. *Han likes Rakhine mone-ti; he does not like mohingar, and he hates nan gyi thoke – he is crazy!*

Number of Independent Clauses: _____

Number of Dependent Clauses: _____

Sentence Type: _____



4. *Khin and Han ate too much and felt sick.*

Number of Independent Clauses: _____

Number of Dependent Clauses: _____

Sentence Type: _____

5. *When my boss talks to me like that, I feel angry and want to quit.*

Number of Independent Clauses: _____

Number of Dependent Clauses: _____

Sentence Type: _____

6. *Inle Lake, which is a popular tourist spot, has many great hotels, but they are so expensive.*

Number of Independent Clauses: _____

Number of Dependent Clauses: _____

Sentence Type: _____