

TYPES OF SENTENCES

Remember: A sentence has a verb, a subject, and a complete thought. A fragment is an incomplete sentence—a phrase missing one or more of these parts.

1. Compound Sentence

A. Combine two sentences with a semicolon. No conjunction is needed.

Example: The cheese pizza filled my mouth with bliss; I couldn't resist a second slice.



B. Combine two sentences with a comma and a conjunction.

Conjunctions: and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so

Correct: My brother is tall, but I am short.

Incorrect: My brother is tall, but not me!

Here, what follows the conjunction does not contain its own subject and verb, so it is not a compound sentence.



2. Complex Sentence

A complex sentence has a dependent clause and an independent clause. One part of the sentence forms a fragment; the other part is a complete thought.

Example: When I write complex sentences, I improve my paragraph.

The part of the sentence that is a fragment begins with a subordinating conjunction.

Subordinating conjunctions: *when, while, as, whenever, if, since, because, although, whereas, even though, until*

3. Sentence with a Participial Phrase

A participial phrase is a verb used as an adjective. One type of participle ends with an -ing.

Example: The laughing children love their teacher.

One type of a participial phrase is a fragment that begins with an -ing participle.

A. Sometimes, you can add a participial phrase to the end of a sentence.

Example: The aroma of brownies fills the air, causing our mouths to water.



B. Sometimes, you can add a participial phrase to the beginning of the sentence. This is trickier to do. The participial phrase modifies the first noun in the independent clause.

Incorrect: Rushing to open the door, the vase crashed to the floor.

Here, the word vase is the first noun that follows the participial phrase; therefore the vase is rushing to open the door.

Correct: Rushing to open the door, I knocked over the vase.

Here, the word I is the first noun that follows the participial phrase; therefore, I am rushing to the door.

4. Sentence that Begins with an Infinitive Verb Phrase

When a verb has the word **to** written before it, it is an infinitive verb. The infinitive verb is never the main verb within a sentence, and a suffix is never added to the verb.

When a sentence begins with an infinitive verb phrase, we must scrutinize the first noun that follows the infinitive verb phrase. This first noun must be the noun performing the action within the infinitive verb phrase.

Correct: To prepare for the party, I removed eleven cobwebs.
Here, the first noun, "I," is preparing for the party.

Incorrect: To prepare for the party, cobwebs were removed.

Here, the first noun within the independent clause, "cobwebs," is preparing for the party.

