

Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences

a. Simple Sentences

Simple sentences have only one clause. What is a clause? A clause is a group of words with a subject and a verb. But simple sentences can have more than one subject, verb and direct object. These are called compound subjects, verbs and direct objects.

One subject.

One verb.

David is busy.

Compound

Subjects.

He and his friends go out at the weekends.

Compound

Verbs.

He **goes** to school and also **works**.

Compound

Direct Objects.

He likes **music** and **movies**.

b. Compound Sentences

Compound sentences have two or more clauses joined by a co-ordinating conjunction. Some common co-ordinating conjunctions are *and*, *but* and *or*. The two clauses of a compound sentence are always separated by a comma.

Clause 1

David works hard at school,
He studies during the week,
He and his friends see a movie,

and
but
or

Clause 2

he gets good grades.
he has fun at the weekend.
they go to a concert.

c. Complex Sentences

Complex sentences have two clauses joined by a subordinating conjunction. Some common subordinating conjunctions are *when*, *because* and *that*.

Clause 1

David feels tired
He is tired
He wishes

when
because
that

Clause 2

he gets home at night.
he worked hard.
he could go to a movie.