

TEAS

English & Language Usage

Types of Sentences

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Nursing

TOPICS

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1. Clauses
2. Simple Sentences
3. Complex Sentences
4. Compound Sentences
5. Complex-Compound Sentences
6. Parallel Structure
7. Are These Grammatically Correct Sentences?
(Exclamations, Imperatives, Fragments, Run-On Sentences)
8. Final TEAS Tips

CLAUSES

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Clauses are the building blocks of sentences.

A clause is sentence, or part of a sentence, which generally contains a subject and verb.

To the tune of Destiny's Child... "All the clauses who are independent can make their own sentence!"

Are these clauses **INDEPENDENT** or **DEPENDENT**?

- Even though Monica is uptight
- Phoebe sings
- Because Ross is a professor
- Rachel shops a lot
- Before Chandler met Joey
- Joey is obsessed with sandwiches and trifle



**Note that dependent clause = subordinate clause
Independent clause = main clause*

SIMPLE SENTENCES

Simple sentence = 1 independent clause

- Phoebe sings.
- Rachel shops a lot.
- Joey is obsessed with sandwiches and trifle
- Monica got the vacuum out of the closet to clean the shared apartment.

COMPLEX SENTENCES

Complex sentence = 1 independent clause + 1 dependent clause

- **Even though** Monica is uptight, she is a good friend.
- **Because** Ross is a professor, he does research.
- **Before** Chandler met Joey, he had a different roommate.
- Someone ate Ross's sandwich **while** he was working.
- Rachel joined the group **after** she left her fiancé at the altar.

The independent and dependent clauses are joined by **subordinate conjunctions** (see sidebar).

When the dependent clause comes first, the sentence usually needs a comma. When the independent clause comes first, it doesn't.

Subordinate Conjunctions:
although,
because, since,
unless, while,
if, though,
after, before,
when, until,
whereas, as, even
though, provided
that...

(and
many
more!)

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COMPOUND SENTENCES

Compound sentence = 1 independent clause + 1 independent clause

- Joey wants pepperoni pizza, but Phoebe is a vegetarian.
- Monica is a chef, and Ross is a professor.
- Rachel loves fashion, so she got a job at Ralph Lauren.

These independent clauses are joined by coordinating conjunctions (see sidebar).

Coordinating
conjunctions, aka
FANBOYS:

For

And

Nor

But

Or

Yet

So

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COMPOUND COMPLEX SENTENCES

Compound-complex sentences = 1 independent clause + 1 independent clause + 1 dependent clause +.....

- **Even though** Monica loved Richard, they could not agree on their future, **so** she decided to end the relationship.
- Rachel didn't like Ross in high school; however, they ended up dating **because** her feelings changed as she grew up.
- Rachel is spoiled **and** her father supports her, **so** she can only be independent **if** she works at Central Perk.

In compound-complex sentences, we see different types of connections for the clauses:

subordinating conjunctions,
coordinating conjunctions,
punctuation....

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PARALLEL STRUCTURE

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Parallel structure means that items in lists should be structured/formatted in the same way. This also applies to comparisons or pairs connected by conjunctions.

INCORRECT: Rachel shopped at Bloomingdales, was having coffee at Central Perk, and adopted a hairless cat.

CORRECT: Rachel shopped at Bloomingdales, had coffee at Central Perk, and adopted a hairless cat.

INCORRECT: Ross likes dinosaurs, sandwiches, and to dance.

CORRECT: Ross likes dinosaurs, sandwiches, and dancing.

INCORRECT: Monica wants to get married and having children.

CORRECT: Monica wants to get married and have children.

INCORRECT: Dating Monica is more fun than to date Janice.

CORRECT: Dating Monica is more fun than dating Janice.

INCORRECT: Phoebe is not only creative but also treats people kindly.

CORRECT: Phoebe is not only creative but also kind.

Are These Grammatically Correct Sentences?

(Exclamations, Imperatives, Fragments, Run-On Sentences)

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Oh no!

Grammatically Correct. This is an **exclamation**, which is not exactly a sentence, but is considered grammatically complete.

Get out!

Grammatically correct. This is an **imperative**, so we consider it a complete sentence. The subject is understood to be “you,” even though “you” doesn’t appear in the sentence.

Rachel and Monica’s apartment.

INCORRECT. This is a **fragment**, or incomplete sentence, because there is no verb.

Even though Phoebe has a twin sister, Ursula.

INCORRECT. This is a **fragment**, or incomplete sentence, even though it has a subject and verb, because of the subordinating conjunction “even though.”

Ross thought he and Rachel were on a break Rachel didn’t think so.

INCORRECT. This is a **run-on sentence**, because the clauses are not appropriately connected by conjunctions or punctuation.

FINAL TIPS FOR THE TEAS

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1. Chop up a sentence into parts
 - o Split the sentence at the comma(s), or before conjunctions (connecting words)
Joey read Rachel's favorite book, and Rachel read Joey's favorite book.
Ross attended his ex-wife's wedding even though he was upset.
2. Check if the parts of the sentence can stand on their own (are independent)
 - 1 independent = simple
 - 2 independent (+ FANBOYS) = compound
 - 1 independent + 1 dependent (+ subordinate) = complex
 - 2 independent + 1 dependent + more... = compound complex
3. Look for the subject and verb. If you can't find them, it could be a fragment
*EXCEPTIONS: "Oh no!" (exclamation) "Get out!" (imperative, subject = you)