

University of Blida-2

Department of English

Lecture One

Types of Sentences

At the end of this lecture, students should be able to :

- ✓ Comprehend the difference between types of clauses.
- ✓ Understand what is a complete sentence in English.
- ✓ Generate new sentences.

- In formal spoken or written English, every sentence must be **complete**. The basic rule is that all sentences must have a **subject (S)**, which can be a pronoun, noun, or a noun phrase, and a **verb (V)**, which can also be a verb phrase.
- A group of words that has a subject and a verb is called a clause. A clause may or may not be a complete sentence. There are two kinds of clauses : independent and dependent clauses.
- An independent clause, or main clause, is a complete sentence. It contains the main subject and verb of the sentence.
e.g. Alex goes to work.
- A dependent clause cannot stand on its own and make complete sense. It must be connected to an independent clause.
e.g. Although he likes it a lot.

A **dependent clause**, by itself, is called a **sentence fragment**.

(1) A **simple sentence** contains one independent clause and no subordinate clauses.

(2) A **compound sentence** contains two or more independent clauses and no subordinate clauses.

(3) A **complex sentence** contains one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause.

(4) A **compound-complex sentence** contains two or more independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause.

Exercise (01) In the independent and subordinate clauses in the following sentences, underline the subjects once and the verbs twice.

Example : Harriet, a horticulturist, raises gardenias in her enclosed porch that she uses as a greenhouse.

1. Ever since she was a young girl, Harriet has loved flowers.

2. She is fond of all flowers, but she especially loves those with a beautiful fragrance.
3. Harriet's backyard is bordered by many different varieties of roses that bloom profusely all summer.
4. Her favorite rosebush, a red, climbing variety, grows from a fifty-year-old cutting that was taken from a rosebush in her mother's yard.
5. Did you know that she has taken cuttings from that bush and has given them to her daughter and grand daughter?
6. Since Harriet lives in Illinois, her garden is covered with snow during the winter and has no flowers for her to enjoy.
7. After reading an article about growing flowers in a greenhouse, Harriet turned her porch, which faces south, into a greenhouse.
8. Inspired by the beautiful gardenia bush that was a birthday gift, she fashioned a tabletop greenhouse of plant stakes and plastic.
9. Soon, the gardenia bush that had been the only plant in the greenhouse was joined by small cuttings.
10. The indoor and outdoor flowers add beauty to Harriet's house and to her neighborhood, and the fragrant plants bring joy to the woman who so carefully tends them.

Exercise (02) In each of the following sentences, underline the independent clauses.

1. During the hurricane season, meteorologists keep a close eye on storm systems over oceans near the United States.
2. Hurricanes begin as easterly waves, which may grow and form an area of low pressure called a tropical depression.
3. When winds of a tropical depression reach 32 miles per hour, the depression officially becomes a tropical storm, and when the storm winds reach 74 miles per hour, the storm is classified as a hurricane.
4. Collecting data from the storms helps meteorologists because, from the data, they can forecast the size, strength, and timing of impending hurricanes.
5. Since hurricanes can have wind speeds of more than 200 miles per hour, they produce large waves, which are called storm surges.
6. Even if a hurricane's winds do not cause severe damage, a community lying in a low area along the waterfront may be flooded by the storm surge.
7. One of the benefits of hurricane forecasting is the time the warnings give to residents who live in flood-prone areas.

8. Residents can decide whether they will stay for the duration of the storm or evacuate.
9. Evacuating can be difficult because hurricanes can measure 300 miles across.
10. Pay attention to weather forecasts from June to November, the months during which most hurricanes occur in the United States.

Exercise (03) For each of the following sentences, underline the subordinate clause.

Example : Before we went to the play, we invited our friends to our house for a party.

1. Samuel just finished reading the book that he bought last weekend at the beach.
2. We will introduce Madeleine to everyone as soon as she arrives from the airport.
3. Have you ever wondered when that tree in the backyard was originally planted?
4. Margaret, whose essay on indigenous North American birds was nominated for an award, will present her research to the class on Friday.
5. Do you know who in the class will attend the symphony concert on Saturday night?

Exercise (04) Make each of the following subordinate clauses into a complete sentence. Write your revised sentences on the lines provided.

Example : If you buy that book,

If you buy that book, I'd like to read it.

6. Whenever you walk in the park,
7. Although we are having spaghetti for dinner,
8. Because I live in this town,
9. What I wish for every day
10. After I come back from spring break,

Exercise (05) For each of the following sentences, identify the underlined clause as independent or subordinate by writing on the line before each sentence *IND* for *independent* or *SUB* for *subordinate*.

Example :SUB_____ Soccer, which is the national sport of many European and Latin American countries, is becoming more and more popular in the United States.

_____ **1.** During a career that spanned twenty years, Pelé was probably the most popular athlete in the world.

_____ **2.** He was named Edson Arantes do Nascimento, but hardly anyone recognizes that name.

_____ **3.** Soccer fans the world over, however, knew Pelé, who was considered to be the world's best soccer player.

_____ **4.** While he was still a teenager, he led his Brazilian teammates to the first of their three World Cup titles.

_____ **5.** Whenever he played, his skill and agility awed fans.

_____ **6.** Once, he juggled the ball on his foot for fifty yards, eluding four opponents who were trying to take the ball away from him.

_____ **7.** When he quickly became a superstar, no one was surprised.

_____ **8.** Even though soccer was less popular in the United States than elsewhere, Pelé managed to spark considerable interest in the game.

_____ **9.** After he signed with the New York Cosmos, people flocked to the stands to watch him play.

_____ **10.** They soon recognized that Pelé was an athlete who was also an entertainer.

Exercise (06) Classify each of the following sentences according to its structure. On the line provided, write *S* for *simple*, *CD* for *compound*, *CX* for *complex*, or *CC* for *compound-complex*.

Example _____ **C** Holiday customs vary around the world, but wherever they are held, celebrations often include food and special decorations.

_____ **1.** A major festival in India is the Festival of the Lights (Diwali).

_____ **2.** This holiday is celebrated by making lamps, and it also includes a cooking spree.

_____ **3.** In addition to decorating their houses, the celebrants settle up their business affairs.

_____ **4.** Relatives exchange gifts; then at sunset they light lamps that have special significance.

_____ **5.** They light lamps to beckon Lakshmi, who is the Hindu goddess of wealth.

References

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