



**Fundamental Unit**                      **Title: Reading & Writing (Compréhension et Expression Ecrite)**  
**Level: First Year LMD.**                      **Period: Semesters 1**  
**Credits: Coefficient: 4.**                      **Prepared by BOUGUERNI Abdelmadjid**  
**Learning Hours: 4 hours 30mn per week**

## LESSON 3: SENTENCE STRUCTURES.

### What is a sentence ?

- A sentence is a group of words that express **a complete thought**. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop. A sentence may be a statement, question, exclamation or command.
- A sentence **must** have a **subject** and a **verb**. A sentence without a subject **or** a verb is called a **fragment**.
- **Fragment** is an incomplete sentence.
- There is one apparent **exception** to this – the imperative. When someone gives a command (the imperative), they usually do not use a subject. They don't say the subject because it is obvious.

Eg. - Sunday is the busiest day of the week for me. ( Sentence)

- The busiest day of the week for me. (fragment)

- Traveled far for work. (fragment)

### What is a Clause?

- **Independent Clause** : is a group of words that contains a **subject and a verb** (+ a complement ) **and expresses a complete thought**. It can stand alone as a **sentence**.

Eg. *Ecology is a science.*

- **Dependent Clause** : does not **expresses a complete thought and** often begins with a **connector**.

**Connectors** are words that we use to connect clauses and form different types of sentences such as :

(FOR- AND – NOR – BUT- OR- YET – AFTER- BEFORE – THAT – WHICH – IF – SINCE- THEREFORE –

BECAUSE ...etc)

Eg. *If it does not rain soon*

*Since early morning*

### What is a phrase?

**Phrases** can be any combination of words **that do not combine a subject and a verb**. Phrases are used for descriptions of people, things, or events or explaining how or why something happened. There are many types of phrases, including **noun phrases** (the nice neighbor, my best friend, troops of soliders), **verbal phrases** (*waiting for the rain to stop, Have been sleeping*), **and prepositional phrases**, which follow a preposition (*after the storm, to the end of time, in the road*)

**Practice: Identify each group of words as fragment (F), dependent clause (D), a sentece (S) or a phrase (P).**

1. Paying off that bill should have been done long ago.
2. Just watching the exciting game on T.V
3. After I had studied hard for two hours without stopping.
4. Beginning on Monday.
5. Speeding down the highway at 90 MPH.
6. As fast as possible.
7. A political program that makes sense.
8. Raise your hand.
9. Whenever you come to visit Spain.
10. Giving her the support that was needed.
11. After we finished the game.
12. by the end of May.
13. Although Sarah likes Mexican and Italian food.
14. To get the best deal.
15. to be there on time.
16. Who play basketball every weekend.
17. parked in front of our house.
18. Exhausted by the long hot drive.
19. The Mercedes with the blue top.
20. Since the storm knocked out the power.
21. Around the block .
22. The highway was finished last month.
23. Leaving me behind.
24. Forgetting to do the assignments will affect your score.
25. with a smile on his face.

26. Please leave now.

## **SENTENCE STRUCTURE :**

### **1. SIMPLE SENTENCE :**

A simple sentence is also called an independent clause. It contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. Eg. *Scott plays tennis in the morning.*

### **2. COMPOUND SENTENCE :**

A **compound** is two (or more) independent clauses joined by a **coordinating conjunction** (and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet) or **semicolon ( ; )**. So a compound sentence is like two or more simple sentences added together. A compound sentence does not contain any dependent clauses.

- Eg. Mary went to work. John went to the party. I went home.  
→ Mary went to work, but John went to the party, and I went home.
- I like coffee. Mary likes tea. → I like coffee, and Mary likes tea
- Our car broke down. We came last. → Our car broke down; we came last

### **COMPLEX SENTENCE :**

A complex sentence combines an **independent clause** with one or more **dependent clauses**. A complex sentence **always** has a subordinating conjunction (after, although, because, since, when, until ...etc) or a relative pronoun (that, which, who).

- Wise men speak *because* they have something to say.
- Although she was considered smart, she failed all her exams.

### **3. COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE**

It has at least 2 independent clauses and 1 dependent clause. That means there should be at least three clauses in the sentence.

Eg. -I woke up at six o'clock because I had to hit the gym, but I was too tired to get out of bed.

- Even though she bought a new computer, she kept her old one, and she still uses it because it has some important programmes.
- People who read comics rarely read novels; they often find books difficult.

**PRACTICE: identify the following sentences as simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex.**

1. After midnight the ghosts will come out of the haunted attic. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Having a party is a bad idea because the neighbors will complain. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Can you fix the bell, or should I call the electrician? \_\_\_\_\_
4. The dog jumped on his lap while he was eating. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Jennifer liked William's friend, and she also liked his cousin. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The actor was nervous before he auditioned; he felt that he did well. \_\_\_\_\_

7. When a seven-foot tiger shark arrived, the crew stopped fishing. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The teacher and the principal met in the hall near the library. \_\_\_\_\_
9. After our team won, we decided to celebrate, so we led a parade through town. \_\_\_
10. Many brave soldiers fought in the war ; they received medals. \_\_\_\_\_
11. I am extremely happy since I retired. \_\_\_\_\_
12. She dropped the pan and the plate, but she held on to the spoon. \_\_\_\_\_
13. High blood pressure is a serious condition that affects many people, and it should be treated by a qualified physician. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Leila has been studying piano since she was six years old, and she enjoys it. \_\_\_
15. Maria registered for all of her classes by mail; Brad was not able to do so. \_\_\_\_\_