



Mini Lesson Plan

Basic Sentence Structures

Lesson Objectives:

1. To understand the purpose and advantage of using multiple sentence types
2. To convey basic sentence types

Preparation:

1. Review lecture notes.
2. Print materials. There is a sheet of fill-in-the-blank notes for the student with charts to be copied on the back, and two sheets of exercises to be copied back-to-back.

Handouts:

1. See attached student handout.

Introductory Activity: 5-10 minutes

1. Instruct students to read simple definition of sentence types provide.
2. Have student identify the sentence type of the given 10 sentences.
3. Review answers to sentence types.

Lecture Notes: 20-25 minutes

1. See attached lecture notes.
2. Discuss, in detail, sentence types. Have students fill in the blanks on the sheet of notes while you go through the lecture notes.
 - a. When discussing complex sentence, put a list of subordinating conjunctions on the board. Take and answer any questions about conjunctions, but keep in mind they are not the main focus of the lesson.

Practice Activity: 20-25 minutes

1. Students have two practice activities:
 - a. Students have five sentences to combine. Students should use coordinating conjunctions or subordinating conjunctions on the board to combine the sentence. Encourage students to make complex sentence.
 - b. Students then have an editing activity which requires them to: make complex/compound sentences, reduce repetition by forming simple sentences.

Closing Notes: 5 minutes

1. Review main ideas of lesson.

2. Take any last questions.
3. Encourage students to come back to the Writing Center.

Mini Lesson: Basic Sentence Structures

Lecture Notes

(Note: Answers to student notes are bolded AND underlined.)

I. **Simple Sentence.** A simple sentence has one **independent** clause.

I visited New York. FORMULA: **SUBJECT + VERB + COMPLETE THOUGHT**

An independent clause is **free to stand alone**. It expresses one complete thought. It often ends in a period or a question mark.

II. **Compound sentence.** A compound sentence has **two independent clauses** joined by a comma and a **coordinating conjunction**, such as **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so** (which we can remember with the acronym **FANBOYS**).

I visited New York, **but** I didn't have time to see the Statue of Liberty.

FORMULA: **SUBJECT + VERB** + CC + SUBJECT **+ VERB**

Both independent clauses can stand alone, but we can join them together to show how the ideas are connected or to vary the flow of our writing.

III. **Complex sentence.** A complex sentence has an independent clause and a **dependent** clause introduced by a **subordinating conjunction** such as *after, before, when, as soon as, since, while, whenever, because, although, even though, though, while, or if*.

A dependent clause **does not stand alone** because it does not express a complete thought.

I visited New York. ← COMPLETE Because I visited New York. ← INCOMPLETE

FORMULA #1: **SC + SUBJECT + VERB, SUBJECT + VERB**

Example: **When** I visited New York, I didn't have time to see the Statue of Liberty.

FORMULA #2: **SUBJECT + VERB + SC + SUBJECT + VERB**

Example: I didn't have time to visit the Statue of Liberty when I visited New York.

Why have so many sentence types? (ASK STUDENTS. THIS PART IS NOT IN THE STUDENT NOTES.)

English has different types of sentence structures to provide variety, help readers develop a further understanding of the material, and maintain the readers' interest. Different sentence types allow for writers to put ideas together in new ways. Combining information is crucial so the reader can understand the relationship of information and maintain interest as they read.

Mini Lesson: Basic Sentence Structures
Student Notes

I. A simple sentence has one _____ clause.

I visited New York. **FORMULA:** _____

An independent clause is _____. It expresses one complete thought. It often ends in a period or a question mark.

II. Compound **sentence.** A compound sentence has _____ joined by a comma and a _____, such as _____ (which we can remember with the acronym _____).

I visited New York, ___ I didn't have time to see the Statue of Liberty.

FORMULA: _____ + CC + _____

Both independent clauses can stand alone; but we can join them together to show how the ideas are connected or to vary the flow of our writing.

III. **Complex sentence.** A complex sentence has an independent clause and a _____ clause introduced by a _____ such as *after, before, when, as soon as, since, while, whenever, because, although, even though, though, while, or if.*

A dependent clause _____ because it does not express a complete thought.

I visited New York. ←COMPLETE Because I visited New York. ←INCOMPLETE

FORMULA #1: _____, _____.

Example: _____ I visited New York, I didn't have time to see the Statue of Liberty.

FORMULA #2: _____.

Example: I didn't have time to visit the Statue of Liberty when I visited New York.

Additional	Opposite of expected	Contrast/Opposite	Illustrate/Show	The Same/Similar
And Furthermore Moreover Also In addition	Although Though Even though Nevertheless Ever so Nonetheless	While Whereas Though In contrast On the contrary On the other hand Instead However Still Otherwise	For example To illustrate For instance To demonstrate	Just as Similarly Likewise In the same way

Condition	Time Words	Results/Consequences	Restate
If Even If Unless Whether	Before After While Until Previously Meanwhile After that Next Since then	Because Since Now that	That is to say In other words In fact

Mini Lesson: Basic Sentence Structures

Practice Exercises

1. Simple Sentence – Contains a single, independent clause.
2. Compound sentence – Contains two independent clauses that are joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction
 - Coordinating conjunctions include: and, but, yet, so, for, nor, or
3. Complex sentence – Contains an independent clause plus one or more dependent clauses
 - Dependent clauses often begin with after, before, when, as soon as, since, while, whenever, because, although, even though, though, while, or if

Sentence Identifying exercises.

Read the below sentences and identify them as simple, compound, or complex.

1. This is a simple sentence, which has a definition.
2. I like playing basketball, and my brother likes playing tennis.
3. I'll help you if you help me.
4. His name is Marko, and he comes from a small town.
5. My mother cooked dinner while I was doing my homework.
6. While I was doing my homework, my father cooked the dinner, and my mother was asleep in front of the television.
7. Do you want to go swimming tomorrow, or would you prefer to play tennis?
8. I've brought my umbrella with me in case it rains.
9. I don't know when he came home.
10. My family came to the United States when I was in 5th grade, but I never learned to speak English very well.

Different sentence types allow for writers to put ideas together in new ways. Combining information is crucial so that your readers can understand the relationship of information and maintain interest as they read.

Sentence Combining

Examine the simple sentences below and combine the sentences into either complex or compound sentences.

1. Chicago is the largest city in Illinois. Chicago is not the capital of Illinois.
2. Some of the factories have been torn down. Some of them have been converted to artists' studios.

3. Chicago is known as the second city. Chicago is the third largest city in the United States.
4. The city is cold, windy, and gray sometimes. The city is beautiful.
5. The train was late. I was late for class.

Paragraph Exercise

After combining the sentences see if you can bring the ideas in the paragraph together by using a variety of sentences.

Chicago has a vibrant downtown and colorful neighborhoods. There are many things to see. You're visiting for business or pleasure. You'll find world-class dining, shopping, and entertainment.

You're looking for things to do in Chicago. Look no further than the Loop. Enjoy the great outdoors with a Chicago Architecture Foundation river boat tour. The animals at Lincoln Park Zoo. A lunch with a skyline view on a rooftop patio. At night, you can go to the downtown parks for a free concert. You don't like music. You can see a free movie.

You can also relax indoors. Indoors you can relax at a spa. Spas are expensive. You can also go to a museum. A more action-packed Chicago day. Go to a sports game. You don't like sports. The stadiums like Wrigley Field and the United Center are fun to be in.

You can also do things at night. You can eat at a world-class restaurant. You can go to a comedy club. The symphony or a play might be more enjoyable for you.

Chicago has so many things to do. It's hard to decide. There's something for everyone.