

University of Tikrit
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Department of English Language



Course Title: Composition Writing

Stage: 1st Year

What is a Sentence?

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Lecture 2- What is a sentence?**Pages: 5-8****What is a sentence?**

A complete sentence has a subject and predicate, and can often be composed of more than one clause. As long as it has a subject and a predicate, a group of words can form a sentence, no matter how short.

E.g. "You ate fish."

More complex sentences can combine multiple clauses or phrases to add additional information about what is described. Clauses may be combined using **conjunctions** – such as **"and", "but" and "or"**.

E.g. "He went out to dinner *but* he didn't enjoy the meal."

↑
Independent Clause

↑
Independent Clause

A sentence It is a set of words that contain:

1. a **subject** (what the sentence is about, the topic of the sentence), and
2. a **predicate** (what is said about the subject)- usually contains at least one verb.

e.g. **Smoke rises.**

You speak English.

Ram and Tara speak English when they are working.

Subject

predicate

A sentence must contain at least a **subject** and **verb**.

Exception: The imperative sentences, for example:

(You) Stop!

Sit!

Wait a minute!

Look!

Go!

Note: A sentence expresses a **complete thought**.

Here are some examples of complete and incomplete thoughts:

		<i>complete thought?</i>
sentence	He opened the door.	YES
	Come in, please.	
	Do you like coffee?	
not a sentence	people who work hard	NO
	a fast-moving animal with big ears	

Note: A sentence **begins** with a capital letter and **ends** with a full stop or a question mark or an exclamation mark. Look at these examples:

- **P**eople need food.
- **H**ow are you?
- **L**ook out!

A complete English sentence must have **three characteristics**:

- First, in written form, a sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a period (a full stop) [.] , a question mark [?], or an exclamation mark [!].
- Second, it must express a complete thought, not fragmented.
- Third, it must contain at least one subject (hidden / visible) and one verb.

Types of Sentences:

1- Simple sentence

A *simple sentence* must have a single clause (a single verb) which is independent, and it cannot take another clause.

Example:

I always wanted to become a writer. (One clause – one verb)

2- Compound sentence

A *compound sentence* must have more than one independent clause with no dependent clauses. Some specific conjunctions, punctuation, or both are used to join together these clauses.

Example:

I always wanted to become a writer, and she wanted to become a doctor.

(Two independent clauses – two verbs joined by conjunctions / and, but, so)

3- Complex sentence

A *complex sentence* also has more than one clause but one of them must be an independent clause and the other/ others must be (a) dependent clause(es). There are also some particular connectors for the clauses of a complex sentence to be connected.

Example:

I know that you always wanted to be a writer.

Dep.

Ind.

4- Compound-complex sentence

A *compound-complex sentence* (or *complex–compound sentence*) is a mixture of the features of compound and complex sentences in one sentence. So, it must contain at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.

Example:

I know that you always wanted to become a writer, but I always

Dep.1

Ind. 2

wanted to become a doctor.

Ind. 3

What is a phrase?

A phrase means words can be grouped together, but without a subject or a verb. Because a phrase has neither subject nor verb, it cannot form a 'predicate'.

e.g. after dinner

waiting for the rain to stop

Phrases can't be used alone, but you can use them as part of a sentence, where they are used as parts of speech.

What is a clause?

Clauses are groups of words that have both subjects and predicates. Unlike phrases, a clause can sometimes act as a sentence – this type of clause is called an independent clause.

Some clauses can't be used on their own – these are called dependent clauses, and need to be used with an independent clause to complete their meaning.

An example of a subordinate clause is “*When the man broke into the house*”

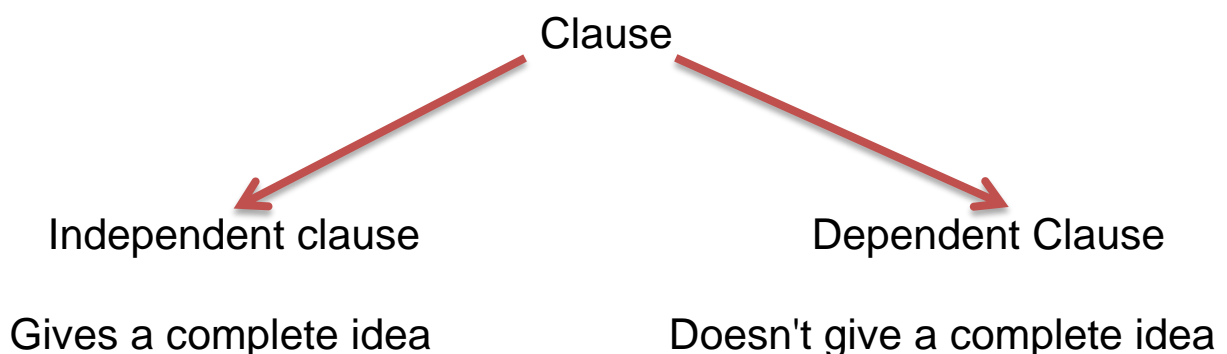
An example of an independent clause is “*the dog barked at him*”

While the independent clause could be used by itself as a complete sentence, the subordinate clause could not. For it to be correct, it would need to be paired with another clause: “*When the man broke into the house, the dog barked at him.*”

Independent Clause/ Can stand by itself with full meaning

Dependent Clause/ Cannot stand by itself

This example is composed of two independent clauses, “*he went out to dinner*” and “*he didn't enjoy the meal*”, combined with a conjunction- “*but*”.



Compound- (2 Independent Clause)

Complex Sentence- (1 Independent) & (1 Dependent clause)