Sentence Types

Sentences are made up of **clauses**. A **clause** is any group of words that contains at least one subject and at least one verb.

An **independent clause** can stand alone as a sentence; it represents one complete thought.

**Example**: Aunt Mary and Uncle Joseph **live** across the street from my grandmother.

* (Subjects)  
  (Verb)

A **dependent clause** cannot stand alone as a sentence.

**Example**: Although her **mother bought** her a teddy bear

* (Subject)  
  (Verb)

The four sentence types are defined by the types of clauses they contain:

1) **A simple sentence** contains one independent clause.

   **Example**: The baseball landed on the roof.

2) **A compound sentence** contains two or more independent clauses.

   **Example**: Fiona contributed a pie to the potluck, and Jamal brought a tuna casserole.

   **Independent Clause**: Fiona contributed a pie to the potluck.
   **Independent Clause**: Jamal brought a tuna casserole.

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

   **Example**: When Mike Brady married Carol, their families joined together.

   **Dependent Clause**: When Mike Brady married Carol
   **Independent Clause**: their families joined together.

4) **A compound-complex sentence** contains at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.

   **Example**: Luis grew up in Utah, but because he hates snow, he moved to Florida.

   **Independent Clause**: Luis grew up in Utah
   **Dependent Clause**: because he hates snow
   **Independent Clause**: he moved to Florida
10 ways to create 
**Sentence Variety**

1. Mix long and short sentences

2. Include a rhetorical question

3. Begin with an adverb: 
   *Unfortunately, the outfielder dropped the fly ball.*

4. Begin with a prepositional phrase: 
   *With great style, the pitcher delivered a curve.*

5. Join ideas with a compound predicate: 
   *The fans roared and banged in their seats.*

6. Mix coordination and subordination: 
   **Coordination:** The fans hissed, but the umpire paid no attention.
   The fans hissed; the umpire paid no attention.
   The fans hissed; however, the umpire paid no attention.
   **Subordination:** The umpire paid no attention although the fans hissed.
   Although the fans hissed, the umpire paid no attention.

7. Join ideas with an “ing” modifier: 
   *Diving head first onto the grass, Cody caught the ball.*

8. Join ideas with a past participial modifier: 
   *Frustrated by the call, the batter kicked dirt onto home plate.*

9. Join ideas with an appositive: 
   *Beer, the cause of much rowdiness, should not be sold at games.*

10. Join ideas with a relative clause: 
    *Box seats, which are hard to get for important games, are often bought by big corporations.*