

S P P
 They sang songs and danced the polka at my wedding.
 (The same subject, they, performed the actions of both the verbs sang and danced.)

Simple sentence with a compound subject and a compound predicate:

S S S P P P
 My father, mother, and sister came to the school play, applauded the performers, and attended
 the party afterward.
 (Father, mother, and sister all performed the actions of the verbs came, applauded, and attended.)

THE COMPOUND SENTENCE

A compound sentence is a sentence composed of two or more independent clauses but no dependent (subordinate) clauses. The independent clauses are joined by a coordinating conjunction, by a conjunctive adverb, or by a semicolon.

Coordinating Conjunctions:

and but for or nor yet so

Use a comma before any coordinating conjunction that connects two independent clauses.

Common Conjunctive Adverbs:

also furthermore nevertheless therefore besides however
 otherwise thus consequently moreover then still

Use a semicolon before and a comma after any conjunctive adverb that connects two independent clauses.

Examples:

Compound sentences joined by coordinating conjunctions:

S P S P
 Great literature stirs the imagination, but philosophy challenges the intellect.

S P S P
 We drove very fast, for Sheila was about to have her baby.

Compound sentences joined by conjunctive adverbs:

S P S P
 Great literature stirs the imagination; however, philosophy challenges the intellect.

S P

She distributed the tickets to [whoever showed up].

Complex sentence with several dependent clauses:

[When Chaplin was performing with a troupe { which was touring the United States}], Max

S P
Sennett, [who owned the Keystone Comedies], hired him.

Note: *When Chaplin was performing with a troupe which was touring the United States* contains the clause, *which was touring the United States*.

THE COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

A compound-complex sentence is a sentence that contains two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent (subordinate) clause.

Examples (Dependent clauses are enclosed in brackets):

Compound-complex sentence with an adjective clause:

S P S P
Great literature, [which challenges the intellect], is sometimes difficult, but it is also rewarding.

Independent clauses: Great literature is sometimes difficult; it is also rewarding

Compound-complex sentence with an adverb clause:

S P S P
[If the weather is fair], we will go on our camping trip, and I expect to have a great time.

Independent clauses: we will go on our camping trip; I expect to have a great time.

Compound-complex sentence with a noun clause:

S P S P
She knew [that Frank would not like it], but she took the earlier train.

Independent clauses: She knew that Frank would not like it; she took the earlier train