

Sentence Types

Clauses: Every clause needs a SUBJECT and a VERB. The two types of clauses are: (1) Independent and (2) Dependent.

Independent Clause: contains a subject, a verb, and expresses a complete thought. In other words, it can stand independently.

Dependent Clause: contains a subject and a verb BUT does not express a complete thought and, therefore, cannot be left alone. If a dependent clause is left alone, a fragment will result. These clauses depend on independent clauses to express a complete thought.

Sentence Types:

1. **Simple Sentence** = 1 independent clause

EX - Today is her birthday.
IC

2. **Compound Sentence** = 2 independent clauses joined in one of two ways:

EX 1 - joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS):

Today is her birthday, and she will celebrate.
IC CC IC

EX 2 - Joined with a semicolon and a transition word:

Today is her birthday; therefore, she will celebrate.
IC TRANS IC

3. **Complex Sentence** = 1 independent clause and 1 (or more) dependent clause(s)

EX - Because today is her birthday, she will celebrate.
DC IC

**NOTE: If you reverse the order of the sentence, a comma is often NOT necessary:

She will celebrate because today is her birthday.
IC DC

4. **Compound-Complex Sentence** = 2 (or more) independent clauses and 1 (or more) dependent clause

EX 1: Because today is her birthday, she will celebrate, and she will be happy.
DC IC CC IC

EX 2: She needs to do laundry; however, she will celebrate because today is her birthday.
IC TRANS IC DC

**NOTE: Remember, the rules of sentence combining as discussed with compound sentences apply here as well!