

Varying Sentence Structure



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References



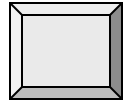
Adding Variety to Sentence Structure

To make your writing more interesting, you should try to vary your sentences in terms of length and structure. You can make some of your sentences long and others short. Read the two paragraphs on the next page.

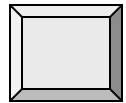


Two Paragraphs

Read the paragraphs below. Choose the paragraph that is more effective.



I love living in the city. I have a wonderful view of the entire city. I have an apartment. I can see the Golden Gate Bridge. I can see many cargo ships pass under the bridge each day. I like the restaurants in San Francisco. I can find wonderful food from just about every country. I don't like the traffic in the city.



I love living in the city of San Francisco. I have a wonderful view of the entire city from my apartment window. In addition, I can see the Golden Gate Bridge under which many cargo ships pass each day. I also like San Francisco because I can find wonderful restaurants with food from just about every country; however, I don't like the traffic in the city.



How do you vary sentence structure?

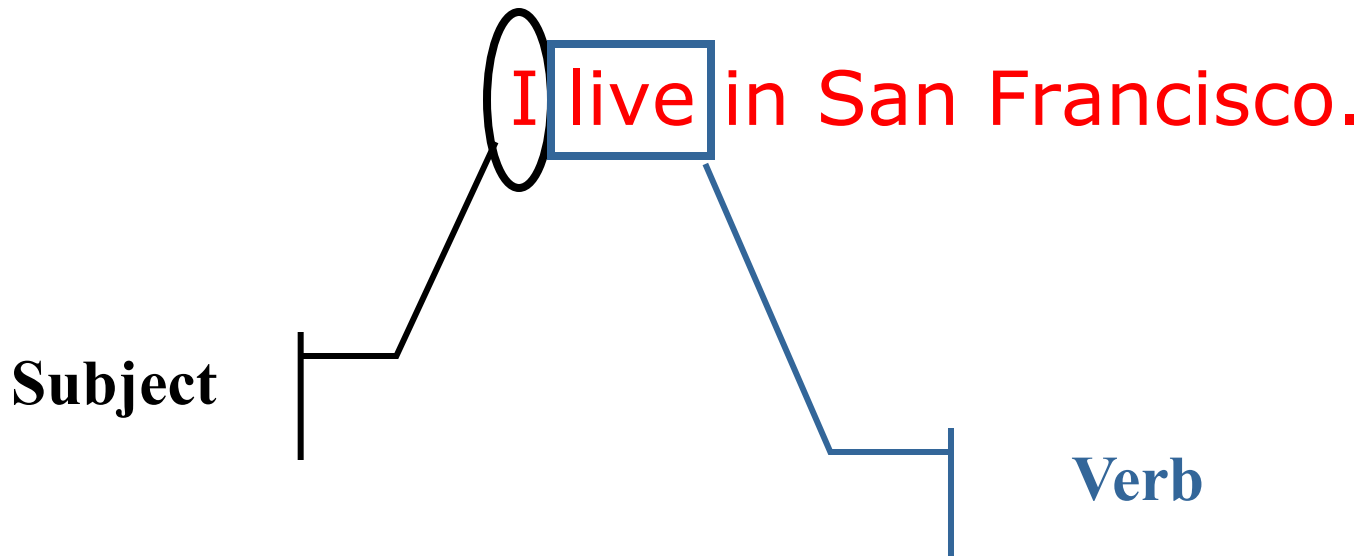
You will want to use a variety of sentence structures in your writing. There are three types of sentences we will study in this lesson:

- Simple Sentence
- Compound Sentence
- Complex Sentence



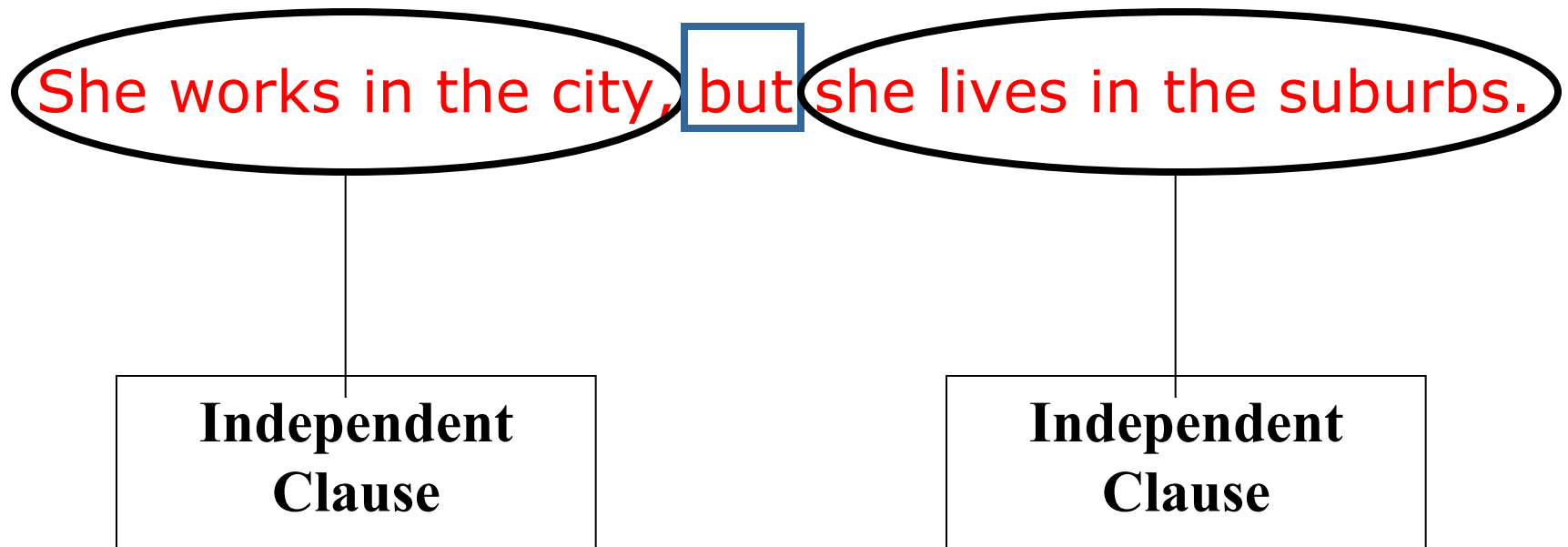
The Simple Sentence

A simple sentence has one ***independent clause*** (one subject and a verb):



Compound Sentence

A **compound sentence** contains two independent clauses that are joined together.



Compound Sentence

You can make a **compound sentence** by joining two logically related independent clauses by using...

- a semicolon
- a coordinating conjunction
- a transition



Using a Semicolon

Independent Clause ; Independent Clause

I love living in the city ; there are so many things to do.

Independent
Clause

Independent
Clause



Using a Coordinating Conjunction

Independent Clause ,coordinating conjunction Independent Clause

He couldn't watch the show , so he decided to tape it.

Independent
Clause

Independent
Clause



Coordinating Conjunctions

Logical Relationship	Coordinating Conjunction
Addition	<i>And</i>
Contrast	<i>But, yet</i>
Choice	<i>Or, nor</i>
Cause	<i>For</i>
Result	<i>So</i>



FANBOYS

Another way to remember these is...

- For → **F**
- And → **A**
- Nor → **N**
- But → **B**
- Or → **O**
- Yet → **Y**
- So → **S**



CAUTION!

Do **NOT** use a comma every time you use the words ***and, or, but, nor, for, so, yet.*** Use a comma only when the coordinating conjunction joins two independent clauses.

Simple Sentence

The necklace was beautiful but expensive.

Independent
Clause

No comma- not an
independent clause



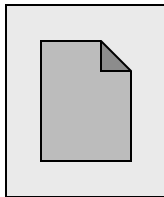
Using a Transition

Independent Clause ; transition , Independent Clause

I love San Francisco ; **however,** I hate the traffic.

**Independent
Clause**

**Independent
Clause**



Click here to see lists of transitions.



Complex Sentences

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

John cannot set up his typewriter

Independent Clause

because the wall has no outlet.

Subordinating
Conjunction

Dependent Clause



Example- Complex Sentence

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

She will go to school in the city

Independent Clause

until she finds a job.

Subordinating
Conjunction

Dependent Clause



Complex Sentences

Use a comma after a dependent clause if it begins the sentence.

When I first moved to the city,

Subordinating
Conjunction

Use a comma if
the dependent
clause is the first
part of the
sentence.

I was afraid to drive the steep and narrow streets.

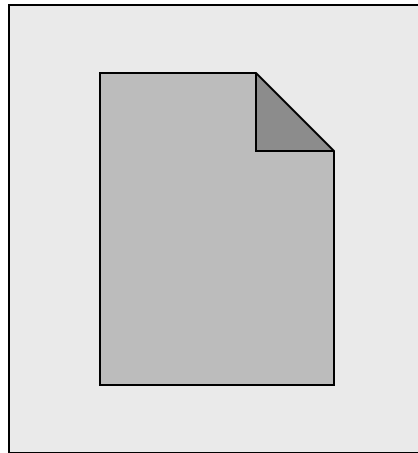
Independent
Clause



Practice Exercises



Now you are ready to practice what you've learned. Click the link below to return to Unit D. Print and complete the Practice Exercise on adding sentence structure variety to your writing. Check your answers with a tutor.



Relationship	Transition	
Addition	Moreover Furthermore In addition besides	
Contrast	However In contrast	On the contrary On the other hand
Result or Effect	Consequently Thus Therefore	Accordingly Hence As a result
Reinforcement/Emphasis	Indeed In fact	



Relationship	Transition
Exemplification	For example For instance In particular
Time	Meanwhile (at the same time) Subsequently (after) Thereafter (after)
Reinforcement/Emphasis	Indeed In fact
Exemplification	For example For instance In particular



References

- PowerPoint Presentation by Ruth Luman: Modesto Junior College.
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