

Structuring Sentences

A sentence is a sequence of words that make complete sense on their own.

Every sentence must have a **SUBJECT** and a **PREDICATE**:

The **butcher** *had* many fine sausages.

Out of the garage **shot** Oscar the dog.

The **subject** is who or what the sentence is about. The **predicate** is what is said about the **subject** and must include a *verb*.

In English there are three types of sentence:

1. **Simple** Sentences: A simple sentence has one main *verb*:
 - **Paul** *writes* poorly.
 - **Tim** *solves* problems.
 - **Angela** *eats* earwigs.
 - **Camping** *is* a nightmare.
2. **Compound** Sentences: These are two (or more) simple sentences joined by a conjunction:
 - **I** *support* Spurs, but **I** *don't go* to many matches.
 - **John** *eats* spiders because **he** *doesn't mind* their tickle.
 - **She** *loves* rhubarb and **often** *makes* rhubarb crumble.
 - **He** *won't do* what I say, even **when** **I** *scream* and *shout*.
3. **Complex** Sentences: Complex sentences have one main clause – which is the same as a simple sentence – and one or more **subordinate clauses**:
 - The office, **which was full of noisy beasts**, was silent for once.
 - Bugs Bunny, **who dearly loved his burrow**, was homeless for a time.
 - **As the sun was rising**, the explorers left their camp **in order to reach the peak before noon**.

Notice that when the subordinate clause 'interrupts' the main clause, it must be separated by commas

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