

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