

Sentence Structure

Simple Sentences

FOCUS

A simple sentence has one independent clause and no dependent clause. An independent clause has a noun and a verb that tells a complete thought. A dependent clause has a noun and a verb that does not tell a complete thought.

Example: Janie and George left their homework at home.

CONNECT TO WRITING

Complete sentences have four different purposes.

A **declarative** sentence makes a statement and has a period as ending punctuation.

Example: Joanna went shopping at the mall.

An **interrogative** sentence asks a question and has a question mark as ending punctuation.

Example: Would you mind cooking your own dinner tonight?

An **imperative** sentence gives a command or makes a request and has a period as ending punctuation.

Examples: Don't tell me what to do. (Command); Mom, sing a song for us. (Request)

An **exclamatory** sentence shows surprise or strong emotions and has an exclamation point as ending punctuation.

Example: I can't believe you said that!

PRACTICE

Identify the following simple sentences as declarative, interrogative, imperative, or exclamatory in the space provided. Add the ending punctuation.

Look at me when I talk to you

That answer really shocked me

Why should I have to wait

Tom asked me a question

WRITE

Write your own simple sentence.

Language Worksheet Answers

Simple Subject

traveler, Tasco, cathedral, Guadalajara, city, people, Mexico City, trip
an experienced traveler

Compound Subject

marathon+race, fans+spectators, Basketball+gymnastics+ice-hockey, cost+effort,
Athletes+spectators

Simple Predicate

Ice cream+[has pleased], ice cream+[is], treat+[has], Rocky Road+[delights],
nuts+marshmallows+[may cause], double-scoop+[tastes], Eating +[can be]

Compound Predicate

works+[stand]+[are remembered], description+[entertains]+[informs], one+[will learn]+
[understand], novel+[teaches]+[preaches], hero+[wrestles]+[triumphs], Debbie walked into the
room, sat down in the chair, and heaved a sigh of relief.

Simple Sentence

Look at me when I talk to you.	imperative
That answer really shocked me.	exclamatory
Why should I have to wait?	interrogative
Tom asked me a question.	declarative

Compound Sentence

I enjoy watching old television shows, but (yet) the new ones are better.
Do you want vanilla, or (and) do you want strawberry?
No one really wants to go; they just feel like they must attend.
This route takes too long; there must be another way.

Complex Sentence

Kenny will be able to go outside to play *after*, *as long as*, *because*, *if*, *once*, or *when* he practices
his trombone.
Because, *Since* the Kings won the first round of the play-offs, the team advances to the second
round.