



## **English Grammar**

### **A Student's Guide to Sentence Types in Academic Writing**



# Sentence Types



**There are 5 basic sentence patterns in English:**

**Subject + verb**

**Subject + verb + object**

**Subject + verb + complement**

**Subject + verb + object + complement**

**Subject + verb + indirect object + direct object**



# Sentence Types



**There are 4 basic types of sentence in English:**

**Simple**

**Compound**

**Complex**

**Compound-complex**



# Sentence Types



## Examples

- **Simple sentence:** Academic writing is difficult.
- **Compound sentence:** Academic writing is difficult *and* academic reading is challenging.
- **Complex sentence:** Academic writing is difficult *because* the ideas are complex.
- **Compound-complex:** Academic writing is difficult because of the difficulty of the ideas being expressed.



# Simple Sentence



**Simple sentences contain one (or more) subject(s) and one verb**

## Examples

- **Academic writing** [subject] **is** [verb] difficult.
- **Academic writing** and **academic reading** [subjects] **are** [verb] difficult.



# Compound Sentences



**Compound sentences contain two (or more) clauses joined by a coordinator, connector, or semicolon (;):**

Academic writing is difficult *and (coordinator)* academic reading is challenging.

- Academic writing is difficult, *so (connector)* it needs practice.
- Academic writing is difficult; *(semicolon)* academic reading is challenging.



# Complex Sentences



**Complex sentences contain one (or more) main clause and one dependent (subordinate) clause.**

## Complex sentences

- **Because** academic reading is challenging, it takes time to master.
- **Even though** academic reading is challenging, it can be a stimulating activity.



# Glossary



<b><i>Subject</i></b>	The person or thing which performs the action of a verb (CLD)
<b><i>Verb</i></b>	A word or phrase that describes an action, condition or experience (CLD)
<b><i>Direct object</i></b>	A person , place, or thing that is affected by the action of a verb, or involved in the result of an action (CLD)
<b><i>Indirect object</i></b>	A person , place, or thing that benefits from the action of a verb (Adapted from Seely, 2009)
<b><i>Complement</i></b>	Part of a clause that completes an earlier part such as the subject (Seely, 2009)





# Glossary



<b><i>Clause</i></b>	Part of a sentence which contains a subject and a verb. A clause may also contain an object, complement or adverbial (Seely, 2009)
<b><i>Connector</i></b>	A word which joins 2 elements of a sentence. Common connectors are; <b><i>and, or, but</i></b> (Seely, 2009)
<b><i>Dependent clause</i></b>	Part of a sentence which 'can act as the subject, object, complement, or adverbial of the main clause' (Seely, 2009, p. 29). Also known as a 'subordinate clause'
<b><i>Subordinator</i></b>	A word which joins a main clause with a subordinate clause (Seely, 2009)



# References



**The Oxford Guide to English Usage (Second Edition).** Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Seely, J. (2009). **Oxford A-Z of Grammar and Punctuation.** Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Leonard, B.H. (2002). **Discoveries in Academic Writing.** Boston Heinle & Heinle.

**Cambridge Dictionaries Online.** Cambridge University Press. Retrieved 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011. Available from <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>



**Thank you for watching!**



**Dr Barbara Howarth**

