

Sentence Patterns

There are six different kinds of sentences, four of which are considered to be grammatically correct. Sentences are classified according to the kinds and number of clauses.

Simple

One independent clause:

Everyone studies.

Compound (Coordination)

Two or more independent clauses:

Bob works at City Hall and Cindy owns her own business.

Complex (Subordination)

One independent clause and one or more dependent clauses:

I think that you need to read this book.

Compound-Complex

Two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses:

Steve bought a new camera, but he doesn't know when the package will arrive.

Incomplete

No independent clauses.

Fused

Two or independent clauses joined incorrectly.