**Written Expression 1st Year**

**Sentences in English**

A sentence is a group of words that you use to communicate your ideas. Every sentence is formed with one or more clauses and expresses a complete thought. The standard definition of a sentence is that it is a group of words containing a subject and a predicate and expressing a complete thought. But for this definition to be helpful, you must be able to recognize a subject and a predicate and understand what is meant by “a complete thought´´.

A sentence has a subject (what or whom the sentence is about) and a predicate. The predicate tells what the subject does or is or what is done to it.

**Eg**: The books were left outside.

There are four types of sentences in English: simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex. The kind of sentence is determined by the kind of clauses used from it.

**1. Simple Sentence**

It is one independent clause with no subordinate clause.

**Eg:** I enjoy playing tennis with my friends every weekend.

I enjoy playing tennis and look forward to it every weekend.

My friend and I play tennis and go bowling every weekend.

**2. Compound Sentence**

It is two or more independent clauses joined together. There are three ways to join the clause: with a coordinator, with conjunctive adverb, with semi-colon.

**\* With Coordinators:** compound sentence can be formed as follows:

**Independent clause, + coordinator + independent clause.**

There is a comma after the first independent clause. The following sentences illustrate the meanings of the seven ´´FANBOYS´´ coordinators.

**Eg**: **For**: Women live longer than men, **for** they take better care of their health.(The second clause gives the reason for the first clause).

**And:** Woman follow more healthful diets, **and** they go to doctors more often.

(The two clauses express equal, similar ideas).

**Nor**: Women don´t read as much as men do, **nor** do they search as much as they do. (Nor means ´ánd not´´. It joins two negative independent clauses. Notice that question word order is used after nor).

**But** : Men may exercise harder, **but** they may not exercise as regularly as women do. (The two clauses express equal, contrasting ideas).

**Or**: Both men and women should limit the amount of fat in their diets, **or** they risk getting heart diseases. (The two clauses express alternative possibilities.)

**Yet**: Women used to be known as the weaker sex, **yet** in some ways, they are stronger than man. ( The second clause is a surprising or unexpected contrast to the first clause).

**So**: Men are less cautious than women, **so** more men die in accidents.(The second clause is the result of the first clause) .

\* **compound Sentence with Conjunctive Adverb**

Compound sentence can be formed as follows:

**Independent clause; + conjunctive adverb,+ independent clause.**

Here are some examples of conjunctive adverbs: besides, furthermore, moreover, also, however, nevertheless, nonetheless, otherwise, accordingly, consequently, hence, therefore, thus.

**\* Compound Sentences with Semicolons**

It is formed as follows: **Independent clause; independent clause.**

This is possible only when the two independent clauses are close in meaning.

**3. Complex Sentence**

It contains one independent clause and one or (more) dependent clause(s). In a complex sentence, one idea is generally more important than the other one. The more important idea is placed in the independent clause, and the less important is placed in the dependent clause.

There are three kinds of dependent clauses: adverb, adjective, and noun. Here they are:

**\* Adverb Clause** Eg: **- Although women in the United States own property,** they could not vote until 1920.

- In the United States, women could not vote until 1920 **although they could own property.**

Notice that there are two possibilities for an adverb clause: before or after the independent clause. If it comes before the independent clause, it is followed by a comma. If it comes after the independent clause, no comma is used.

**\* Adjective Clause** Eg: - Men **who are not married** are called bachelors.

- Last year we vacationed on the Red Sea, **which features excellent scuba diving.**

**Noun Clause** Eg: **- That there is a hole in the ozone layer of the earth´s atmosphere** is well known.

- Scientists believe **that excess chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere** are responsible for creating it.

**.4. Compound- Complex Sentence**

It is a combination of two or more independent clauses and one or (more) dependent clauses. Many combinations are possible, and their punctuation require careful attention.

**Eg:** I wanted to travel after I graduated from college; however, I had to go to work immediately.

**-** After I graduated from college, I wanted to travel, but I had to go to work immediately.

- I wanted to travel after I graduated from college, but I had to go to work immediately because I had to support my family.