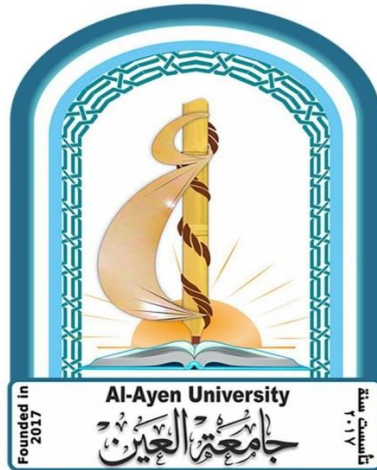


first lecturer – second stage
Petroleum engineering

Subject: English language
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The 4 Types of Sentence Structure

In What is a Sentence? we saw the minimum requirements for the formation of a sentence. Now we can look in more detail at the four types of **sentence structure**.

Simple Sentence Structure

A **simple sentence** consists of one independent clause. (An independent clause contains a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.)

- I like coffee.
- Mary likes tea.
- The earth goes round the sun.
- Mary did not go to the party.

Compound Sentence Structure

A **compound sentence** is two (or more) independent clauses joined by a conjunction or semi-colon. Each of these clauses could form a sentence alone.

- I like coffee and Mary likes tea.
- Mary went to work but John went to the party.
- Our car broke down; we came last.

There are seven coordinating conjunctions:

- *and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so*

Complex Sentence Structure

A **complex sentence** consists of an independent clause plus a dependent clause. (A dependent clause starts with a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun, and contains a subject and verb, but does not express a complete thought.)

- We missed our plane because we were late.
- Our dog barks when she hears a noise.
- He left in a hurry after he got a phone call.
- Do you know the man who is talking to Mary?

Here are some common subordinating conjunctions:

- *after, although, as, because, before, how, if, once, since, than, that, though, till, until, when, where, whether, while*

Here are the five basic relative pronouns:

- *that, which, who, whom, whose*

Compound-Complex Sentence Structure

A **compound-complex sentence** consists of at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

- John didn't come because he was ill so Mary was not happy.
- He left in a hurry after he got a phone call but he came back five minutes later.