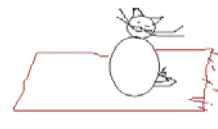


Types of sentences

1. **Simple sentence:**
contains only one piece of information ...

e.g. 'The cat sat on the mat.'



Top tip: these can be very dramatic and build suspense. **Fragments or minor sentences** can also be used for this purpose, e.g. Stop!

2. **Compound sentences:**
contain more than one piece of information. The words 'and', 'but' and 'or' are used to join two simple sentences together.

e.g. 'The cat sat on the mat **and** licked his paw.'

3. **Complex sentences:**
also contain more than one piece of information. They are made up of several parts or **clauses**. At least one of these will be a **main clause**, which contains the main information of the sentence. There will also be one or more **subordinate clauses** which give extra information about what is happening. The subordinate clause cannot make sense on its own. There are numerous ways of making complex sentences - some are listed below:

- a. An embedded subordinate clause:

e.g. The cat, **who was eyeing my goldfish hungrily**, needed lots of food.

- b. Beginning with a subordinate clause:

e.g. **Eyeing my goldfish hungrily**, the cat paced back and forth beside the fish bowl.

- c. Surrounding the main clause with subordinate clauses:

e.g. **Even though he had just eaten half a tin of cat food**, Felix paced back and forth beside the fish bowl, **eyeing my goldfish hungrily**,

Can you create your own examples of simple, compound and complex sentences?

Tasks

1. Read the extract from *Regeneration* by Pat Barker. See if you can find and label some examples of the above sentence types.

Extract from *Regeneration* by Pat Barker

Burns. Rivers had become adept at finding bearable aspects to unbearable experiences, but Burns defeated him. What had happened to him was so vile, so disgusting, that Rivers could find no redeeming feature. He'd been thrown into the air by the explosion of a shell and had landed, head-first, on a German corpse, whose gas-filled belly had ruptured on impact. Before Burns lost consciousness, he'd had time to realise that what filled his nose and mouth was decomposing human flesh. Now, whenever he tried to eat, that taste and smell recurred. Nightly, he relived the experience, and from every nightmare, he awoke vomiting. Burns, on his knees, as Rivers had often seen him, retching up the last ounce of bile, hardly looked like a human being at all. His body seemed to have become merely the skin-and-bone casing for a tormented alimentary canal. His suffering was without purpose or dignity, and yes, Rivers knew *exactly* what Burns meant when he said it was a joke.

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2. Re-write this passage from a children's story, taking care to use a variety of the sentence types and to make the story more sophisticated for an adult audience.

Extract from *The Haunted House*

The boy was very small. He looked up at the haunted house. It was big and scary. He wondered what was waiting inside. He opened the door. It was very dark. There was silence. He could feel himself shaking. A floorboard creaked. He jumped. He looked up the staircase. There was nothing there. He couldn't shake the feeling he was being watched. He turned around...