

PART B: THE PARTS OF THE SENTENCE

Overhead #35

KINDS OF SENTENCES

When we combine principal and subordinate clauses to form sentences we can create four kinds of sentences:

1. **SIMPLE SENTENCES** consist of one principal clause.

Example: *Pauline went with her class to the zoo.*

Notice that simple sentences may be long or short:

I came home early.

Feeling really ill, I came home earlier than usual to go to bed.

2. **COMPOUND SENTENCES** consist of two or more principal clauses.

Example: *Clara did the dishes and Joey mopped the floor.*

This sentence consists of two principal clauses, each of which is a complete sentence by itself.

Clara did the dishes. Joey mopped the floor.

3. **COMPLEX SENTENCES** consist of one principal clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

Example: *Clara did the dishes while Joey mopped the floor.*

While Joey mopped the floor is a subordinate adverb clause.

The writer puts the less important idea into the subordinate clause.

4. **COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCES** consist of two or more principal clauses and one or more subordinate clauses.

Example: *Clara did the dishes and Joey mopped the floor while Andrea washed the laundry.*

This sentence shows two ideas of equal importance and one of lesser importance.

PART B: THE PARTS OF THE SENTENCE

Overhead #33

PRINCIPAL AND SUBORDINATE CLAUSES

A **PHRASE** is a group of words which does not make sense by itself.
A **CLAUSE** is a group of words which contains a subject and a verb.

All sentences are made up of one or more clauses.
A **PRINCIPAL CLAUSE** is the part of the sentence
which expresses a complete thought.

It can stand alone as a sentence.

Example of a Principal Clause:

Carl threw the basketball.

In this sentence, the subject is *Carl* and the verb is *threw*.

The sentence makes complete sense by itself.

Carl throwing the basketball.

This sentence does not make sense by itself because it does not have a complete verb. It needs other words to complete it.

A **SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** also has a subject and a verb but it cannot stand alone; it needs a Principal Clause in order to make complete sense.

Examples of Subordinate Clauses:

1. if I were a rich person
2. when the summer is over

Notice that these sentences make complete sense with a Principal Clause.

1. If I were a rich person, I would travel and see the world.
2. John will start high school when summer is over.