

Simple and Compound Sentences

A simple sentence contains one independent clause.

John walked into the center of town.

The train whistled past.

The doctor is in.

A compound sentence contains two independent clauses which are closely related.

A conjunction usually joins the two clauses. Remember to put a comma after the first clause and before the conjunction that joins the two clauses.

The team played hard, and they won the game easily.

Soccer is a low-scoring game, but it is very exciting.

The forward kicked the ball, and the goalie grabbed it.

- Identify simple sentences (S) and compound sentences (C) by writing an S or C in each blank. Then, underline the simple subjects once and the simple predicates twice.

___ 1. The Chartres Cathedral is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, and it has become a famous landmark.

___ 2. The town of Chartres is built on the bank of the Eure River.

___ 3. Chartres is located in north-central France, and it is the capital of Eure-et-Loire.

___ 4. The cathedral has two bell towers.

___ 5. Cathedrals of this type were often the focal point of the community, and people sometimes devoted their entire lives to the construction of these religious buildings.

___ 6. A fire in the year 1194 destroyed most of the cathedral, but it was rebuilt between 1194 and 1230.

- Write two simple sentences and two compound sentences about other famous buildings.

1. (simple) _____

2. (simple) _____

3. (compound) _____

4. (compound) _____

Simple or Compound

Sentences that contain only one independent clause are **simple** sentences. An independent clause can stand on its own as a sentence. The subject, the predicate, or both may be compound.

Example: Matthew drank all the milk in the refrigerator.

Sentences that are composed of two or more independent clauses are **compound** sentences. The independent clauses are usually joined by *and*, *but*, *for*, *or*, *so*, or *yet* and a comma.

Example: Grandpa ate his dinner, and then he took a nap.

Directions: Write **S** before each simple sentence, and write **C** before each compound sentence.

1. ___ Elaine plays softball, and she enjoys swimming.
2. ___ William and Tom did well on the swimming team.
3. ___ The large, brown dog in the yard belongs to my neighbor.
4. ___ We can join the swim team, or we can sing in the choir.
5. ___ The players run and exercise every day before practice.
6. ___ The players suffered every hardship, yet they won often.
7. ___ The boys and girls sang and played in the park all day.
8. ___ My sister enjoys gardening, but she dislikes cooking.
9. ___ I did not want to offend Nell by missing the party.
10. ___ Ian worked hard all summer, so he enjoyed his vacation.
11. ___ Pizza, popcorn, and pretzels are all delicious foods.
12. ___ The candles on the table glowed and flickered beautifully.