The Basics

Sentence structures add variety, interest, and impact to a text. Each sentence type is made of phrases and clauses. Clauses are groups of words that contain at least a subject and a verb.

# Types of Clauses

| Types | Structure | Example |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Independent | * one subject * one predicate * complete thought that can stand alone as a sentence | I sold a bike to my brother. |
| Dependent | * has a subject and a verb * incomplete thought that cannot stand alone as a sentence | Before I sold a bike to my brother *(what happened?)* |

# Types of Sentences

| Types | Structure | Example |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Simple | * has one independent clause | I sold a bike to my brother |
| Compound | * has two independent clauses   + two subjects   + two predicates   + clauses joined by a comma and conjunction | I sold a bike to my brother, and I made a good deal. |
| Complex | * has an independent clause + dependent clause(s) | Before I sell my bike, I need to clean it first.  Except for my bike’s wheels, most of the bike was clean because I had washed it. |
| Compound-Complex | * has at least two independent clauses * has one or two dependent clauses | Before I sell my bike, I need to clean it first, and I need to pay attention to the bike’s wheels. |