

Sentence structure

1. What Is a Phrase?

A **phrase** is a group of words **without a subject OR without a verb**.

It doesn't express a complete idea.

Examples: *After the long meeting* (no subject, no complete verb), *Working all night* (no subject), *the new manager* (no verb).

 A phrase is **NOT** a complete sentence.

2. What Is a Clause?

A **clause** is a group of words with **a subject + a verb**.

Types of a clause:

A. Independent Clause	B. Dependent Clause
<p>→ Has a <u>complete</u> idea → can stand alone as a sentence.</p> <p>Examples: <i>A man finished his project.</i></p> <p><i>Sara was tired.</i></p>	<p>→ Has subject + verb BUT NOT a complete idea.</p> <p>→ Begins with words like: <i>because, when, although, if, after, before...</i></p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Because Aman was tired...</i> (not a complete idea)• <i>When the meeting ended...</i>

3. What is a sentence?

A simple sentence has a subject, a verb, and a complete idea.

Example: *Sara solved the conflict with her team.*

Types of a sentence:

1. **Compound sentence:** contains **two** or more **independent clauses** joined by a coordinating conjunction (like **for, and ,nor, but, or, yet, so (fanboys)**)

Examples:

Clause 1: *A man finished his work* (complete sentence)

Clause 2: *he went home early* (complete sentence)

2. **Complex sentence:** contains one independent clause and at least one dependent clause and the dependent clause begins with words like: **because, although, when, while, since, if, unless, even though, before, after.**

Examples:

Because the workload is heavy, many employees feel stressed.

Many workers leave their jobs **because they feel unappreciated**.

3. **Compound - complex sentence:** contains at least two independent clauses and at least one independent clause.

Example:

- Workers communicate better when the rules are clear, and they solve problems more quickly.
- Since the team completed the project, they feel more confident, but they still need
support from the manager

4. **Fragments and runs - out :**

Fragment: a **fragment** is an incomplete sentence.

It looks like a sentence, but it's missing **a subject, a verb, or a complete idea.**

Example:

- Because I was tired.
→ Not a complete idea (waiting for a main sentence).
 - Running down the street.

→ No subject: Who was running?

Run-On Sentence :

A **run-on sentence** happens when **two or more sentences** are joined **incorrectly**,

without:

- a period (.)
- a comma + conjunction (and, but, because...)
- a semicolon (;)

Example:

🚫 *I finished my homework I watched TV.*

✓ *I finished my homework. Then I watched TV.*

✓ *I finished my homework, and I watched TV.*

Silent letters in English

Silent letter	Typical Position	Examples
B	After M at the end of a word, or before T	comb, thumb, debt, doubt
C	In the cluster SC	science, scissors, muscle
D	In some common words and before G	handkerchief, wednesday, bridge, edge
E	At the end of a word (often makes the preceding vowel long)	make, hope, side, love
G	Before N at the beginning or end of a word	gnat, design, foreign, sign
H	After W or at the beginning of some words	what, why, hour, honest, ghost
K	Before N at the beginning of a word	knee, know, knife, knit
L	After the vowels A , O , or U in certain words	calm, talk, would, should, half
N	After M at the end of a word	autumn, hymn, solemn
P	At the beginning of a word before S , T , or N	psychology, pneumonia, pterodactyl, coup
S	In the middle of some words (often before L)	island, aisle, debris
T	In words of French origin or in common clusters	castle, whistle, soften, Christmas, ballet
U	After G and before a vowel	guess, guitar, build, biscuit
W	Before R at the beginning of a word, or in some common phrases	write, wrong, wrap, answer, two