

Sentence Variety

Sometimes less is more



Change it up!

Often without knowing it, we make our writing less effective by not considering a change of pace.

Simple Sentences

A simple sentence contains a subject and a verb and offers a complete thought.

We can use simple sentences to change the pace of our writing, or simply to get a direct message across.

"I like to travel up to North Bay in the summer time."

Compound Sentences

A compound sentence contains two or more complete thoughts (simple sentences) combined by a conjunction (and, or, but, so)

Compound sentences can be used to connect two ideas that relate to each other. This gives variety to your writing and can create excitement for the reader.

“I really enjoy swimming in Lake Nipissing, but I think I enjoy fishing the lake better.”

Complex Sentences

A complex sentence contains a complete thought (clause) as well as a dependent idea. The dependent idea is a part of a sentence that cannot exist on its own.

Dependent Idea: *“Although I only get there once a year”*

This part of the sentence does not make sense on its own and therefore is dependent. This thought requires another sentence to be complete.

Independent Idea: *“North Bay is one of my favourite places to be.”*

Together these are combined to create a complex sentence.

Complex Sentence: *“Although I only get there once a year, North Bay is one of my favourite places to be.”*

Simple, Compound or Complex?

- ❖ If I didn't have my homework done, Mr. Kirkbride would call my mother.
- ❖ I am very concerned I won't get my character sketch completed on time!
- ❖ I didn't finish my character sketch, so I'm worried I am going to have to stay in and finish it.
- ❖ When I went to the store, they did not have any pineapples left!
- ❖ I think pineapples are my favourite fruit, but oranges are a close second.
- ❖ My favourite type of food would have to be pineapples.

Your Turn!

- ❖ Choose a topic (your lit circle book, Donald Trump, your favourite memory, your favourite sport)
- ❖ Write a paragraph about that topic
- ❖ Include AT LEAST 1 of each sentence type in the paragraph.
- ❖ When you are finished, use marker or pencil crayon and underline at least 1 complex, compound and simple sentence.
- ❖ Be sure you colour code each type so I know which each one is (for example, simple=red, complex=blue, compound=yellow)