

Notes on Sentence Structure

SIMPLE SENTENCE

Also called an **independent clause**.
Contains a **subject** and one **predicate**.
Another word for predicate is verb.

Can be as short as two words:

John **cried**.

It can be a longer simple sentence.

The tall, curly haired **boy** **laughed**
at his best friends suggestion.

COMPOUND SENTENCE

Contains two independent clauses.
Contains two subjects and two predicates.

Sentences are joined together with a
comma and a **FANBOYS** – coordinating
conjunction.

Comma comes **BEFORE** the conjunction.
(for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)

I went to the mall, **but** it was closed.

COMPLEX SENTENCE

Complex sentences are a combination of
an independent clause and at least one
dependent clause.

Independent clause = simple sentence.

Dependent clause = cannot stand alone
= a fragment of a sentence – lacking either
a subject or a verb.

A subordinating conjunction is an
indication the sentence is complex.

After we went to the mall, we stopped for
ice cream.

A- fter, afterwards, although

W - hen, while, whenever

H - ow

I- f

T- hen

E - ven,

B - ecause

U - ntil

S - ince