

Mastering Sentence Structure with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To identify and understand different sentence structures, including simple, compound, and complex sentences, as well as the use of clauses and conjunctions.

Read each flashcard carefully. Try to guess the definition or answer before checking the back. Use these to test your knowledge of how we build sentences in English.

What is a simple sentence?

A sentence that consists of one independent (main) clause, containing a subject and a verb.

How is a compound sentence formed?

By joining two independent clauses using a coordinating conjunction (such as and, but, or).

What is a coordinating conjunction?

A word used to connect two independent clauses of equal importance, often remembered by the acronym FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

What is a complex sentence?

A sentence that contains one independent clause and at least one subordinate clause.

What is a subordinate clause?

A clause that adds extra information to a sentence but cannot stand alone as a complete thought.

Define a relative clause.

A type of subordinate clause that starts with a relative pronoun (like who, which, where, or that) and provides more detail about a noun.

Pip the bookworm says: 'I read a book, and I ate an apple.' Is this simple or compound?

Compound, because it joins two independent clauses with the conjunction 'and'.

What is a subordinating conjunction?

A word that links a subordinate clause to a main clause (e.g., because, although, if, since, while).

True or False: A simple sentence must be very short.

False. A simple sentence can be long, as long as it only has one main clause (e.g., 'The hungry, stripey caterpillar crawled slowly across the green leaf.').

Identify the main clause in: 'Because it was raining, Pip stayed inside.'

Pip stayed inside.

Why do we use fronted adverbials?

To describe how, when, or where an action happens by placing the adverbial at the start of the sentence, often followed by a comma.

What makes a group of words a 'clause'?

It must contain a subject (who or what the sentence is about) and a verb (the action or state).