

Sentences

A **sentence** is a group of words that are put together to mean something. For example: *The dragon flew away.*

Simple sentences can be made longer by adding adjectives, adverbs and prepositions that give extra information. For example: *Fearfully, the little dragon ran away from the smoking mountain.*

Compound sentences

Compound sentences are made when you join two simple sentences together using a conjunction (words like and, but, or, so).

For example:

It was getting cold. Fred was beginning to shiver. (two simple sentences)

*It was getting cold **and** Fred was beginning to shiver.* (one compound sentence)

Verb tenses

The word **tense** refers to when something has happened. You can write in the **past**, **present** or **future** tense.

For example:

*Yesterday I **played** football.* (past tense)

*I **am playing** football.* (present tense)

*Tomorrow I **am going to play** football.* (future tense)

Phrases and clauses

Longer sentences are made up of **phrases** and **clauses**. A **clause** is a group of words that **includes a verb** – it usually tells you about an event. A **phrase** is a group of words that **does not contain a verb** – it gives extra information about an event in a sentence.

First, second and third person voices

First person – when the writer is talking about himself or herself (using words like I, we).

Second person – when the writer speaks to the reader (you).

Third person – when the writer speaks about someone or something else (they, he, she, it).

For example:

I am late. (first person)

You are late. (second person)

He is late. (third person)

Complex sentences

Complex sentences link two or more ideas together within one sentence using **conjunctions** or **verbs**.

For example, two simple sentences ...

The girl opened the door to the deserted house. She was scared to enter.

... can make one complex sentence:

The girl opened the door to the deserted house, scared to enter.

Main and subordinate clauses

Complex sentences are made up of at least two **clauses** (parts).

The **main clause** makes sense by itself.

The **subordinate clause** gives extra information and does not make sense if you read it without the main clause.

For example:

*Screaming madly, (subordinate clause)
he ran away from the house. (main clause)*