

Types of Sentences

2nd Lecture

1. The Simple Sentence

Contains a single clause. It expresses a complete thought.
It has one idea.

e.g.

She wrote a book.

The man (subject) knocked at the door (predicate).

2. The Compound Sentence.

Contains two independent clauses joined by a conjunction (such as **and** or **but**). It contains more than one idea.

e.g.

She wrote her first poem at the age thirteen and she wrote her first book in 1773.

The man knocked at the door and waited for an answer.

3. The Complex Sentence.

Contains an independent (main) clause and a dependent (subordinate) clause. The subordinate clause may be a noun clause, and adverb clause, or an adjective clause.

e.g.

He realized that Scot was talented.

I wrote a poem to my mother who was very kind.

She went to England because she had health problems.

As soon as he arrived at the house, the man knocked at the door.

4. The Compound-complex Sentence

It has at least three clauses, at least two of which are independent. You can use almost any combination of dependent and independent clauses. Just be sure that there is at least one independent clause.

e.g.

After I graduated from college, I wanted to travel, but I had to go to work immediately.

Although I have been granted the visa, I haven't traveled to France and I haven't got my money back.

Rosa Parks

1 Rosa Parks is a famous African-American woman, **and** she is often called “the mother of the civil rights movement.” She was born into a poor but hardworking African-American family in Alabama, **and** no one suspected that she would become the spark that ignited the civil rights movement in the United States. This movement changed U.S. society forever, **and** it helped African-Americans attain equal rights under the law.

2 Parks became famous quite by accident. One day in 1955, she was on her way home from her job in a Montgomery, Alabama, department store. She boarded a city bus with three other African-Americans. They sat in the fifth row. The fifth row was the first row African-Americans were allowed to sit in. A few stops later, the front four rows filled up. A white man was left standing.

3 According to the laws of that time, African-Americans had to give up their seats to whites, so the bus driver asked Parks and the three other African-Americans to get up and move. Although the others complied, Parks refused. She later said she was not tired from work, but tired of being treated like a second-class citizen. The bus driver called the police, who arrested Parks and took her away in handcuffs.

4 Over the weekend, a protest was organized, **and** on the following Monday, African-American people in Montgomery began a boycott of the public buses, **and** the boycott was tremendously successful, **and** it lasted more than a year. The Supreme Court of the United States finally ruled that segregation on public transportation was unconstitutional. African-Americans had won a huge victory, **and** they realized their power to change the system.

Activity

Try to figure out the sentences and their types in the above article.