

The 4 Sentence Structures (not types) and Simple Sentences

There are 4 types of sentence structures in English.

Simple
Compound
Complex
Compound-complex

This handout will talk about simple sentences. A **simple sentence** is also known as an **independent clause** which means it has a subject and a **verb** and make sense on its own.

Examples of **simple sentences**:

The dog dashed into the garage.

The dog and the cat **ran** into the garage. (compound or double subject but only 1 verb)

The dog **ran** into the garage and **ate** all the food. (double verb but only 1 subject)

The dog and the cat **like** to stay outside.

Participial phrases like *running around the corner* do not change a sentence's structure. Clauses determine structure, not phrases. Let's repeat that: clauses determine structure, not phrases. Clauses are the cake, and phrases are frosting on top, simply extra stuff to make the cake tastier or more appealing.

Running around the corner, the dog **dashed** into the garage. (still a simple sentence)

The participial phrase did not change the structure of the sentence above. Another type of phrase (which still doesn't change the structure of a sentence) is the **prepositional phrase**. These phrases show time, location, or add extra information but, again, do not change a sentence's structure.

In the spring, the dog and the cat **like** to stay outside **in the yard**. (still a simple sentence)

Note: the participial phrase *running around the corner* contains the prepositional phrase *around the corner*, but it's considered part of the larger unit, just like adjectives describing a noun are included in the larger noun phrase.

Write three of *your own* **simple sentences** (1 independent clause).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.