**Sentence Types—Quick Reference Sheet**

**Simple, Compound, Complex, and Compound-Complex**

**Simple Sentences**

* A simple sentence contains a subject and a verb.
* It expresses a single complete thought that can stand on its own.

**Examples:**

1. The dog barked for food.

2. Mrs. Keller’s extraordinary students completed and turned in their homework.

3. Ryan and Chad ran too far and felt sore.

* A simple sentence does not necessarily have to be short. It can have adjectives. It can even have two verbs like “completed” and “turned in.” It could even have two subjects and two verbs like #3. However, these sentences express only one complete thought and therefore they are simple sentences.

**Compound Sentences**

* A compound sentence has two independent clauses. An independent clause is a part of a sentence that can stand alone because it contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought.
* Basically, a compound contains two simple sentences.
* These independent clauses are joined by a conjunction (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

**Examples:**

1. The shoplifter had stolen some jewelry, **so** she ran once he saw the police.

2. They spoke to him in Chinese, **but** he responded in English.

* These are compound sentences that use a conjunction to separate two individual independent clauses.

**Complex Sentences**

* A complex sentence is an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses. A dependent clause either lacks a subject or a verb or has both a subject and a verb that does not express a complete thought.
* A complex sentence always has a subordinator (as, because, since, after, although, when) or relative pronoun/s (who, that, which).

**Examples:**

1. **After** eating lunch at Panera, she went to the gym to exercise.

* The independent clause is “she went to the gym to exercise.” The subordinating clause before it is dependent on the independent clause. If one were to say “after eating lunch at Panera” it would be an incomplete thought.

2. The man **who** taught math was awarded for his great teaching style.

* The dependent clause in this sentence is “who taught math” because if removed, the rest of the sentence would stand as an independent clause.

**Compound-Complex Sentences**

* A compound-complex sentence has two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.

**Examples:**

1. **After** the two football players lost the championship game, they joined their other teammates for dinner, and they went to the movies.

2. The man believed in the system, and he knew that justice would prevail **after** the thief was sent to jail.

* If we remove the dependent clauses beginning with “after” we have compound sentences. The dependent clause makes these sentences compound-complex.