

Grammatical Range and Accuracy with Better Sentence Structure

In English, there are three main types of sentences.

- Simple sentence
- Compound sentence
- Complex sentence

A simple sentence has just one clause. A complex sentence has one main clause and one or more subordinate (dependent) clauses. A compound sentence has more than one main clause. Expert English writers will use a variety of these structures in their writing.

A) Copyright laws are necessary for society.

As you can see this sentence has just one clause and therefore it is a simple sentence. The number of clauses in a sentence is equal to the number of finite verbs in it. Note that to-infinitives and -ing forms are not finite verbs.

B) Copyright laws are necessary for society, as they provide rewards and protection to original artwork creators.

This sentence has two independent main clauses which have been joined by a co-ordinating conjunction.

C) Because they provide rewards and protection, copyright laws are necessary for society.

As you can see this sentence has two clauses: one main clause (Copyright laws are necessary for society) and one subordinate clause (Because they provide order and reward) We have already learned that a sentence containing one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses is called a complex sentence.

Use co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions

Conjunctions are words that 'join' two parts of a sentence or separate phrases within a sentence together. Co-ordinating conjunctions, such as 'and', 'but', 'or', 'yet', and 'so', are used to join two parts of a sentence that are grammatically equal. The two parts may be single words or clauses. Co-ordinating conjunctions always come between the words or clauses that they join. Most intermediate ESL students are comfortable with using co-ordinating conjunctions.

For example:

Traditional schooling is out of date. There should be educational alternatives.
Traditional schooling is out of date, and there should be educational alternatives.

Subordinating conjunctions; however, often prove more challenging to master. Subordinating conjunctions are used to join a subordinate (or dependent) clause to a main (or independent) clause. They are the essential ingredient in a complex sentence. Subordinating conjunctions usually come at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

Below are some common subordinate conjunctions:

For example:

Communication between family members is less nowadays (independent clause), even though (subordinating conjunction) we have more technological advances (dependent clause).

Children often play video games (independent clause), rather than (subordinating conjunction) conversing with their parents (dependent clause).

Change the part of speech used

You will recall that there are 9 main parts of speech in the English language - nouns, pronouns, verb, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections and articles. The function of an individual word and the word class it belongs to depends on where it is positioned in a sentence and its relationship to other words. (i.e. the meaning of the word 'work', for example, can function as a noun or verb.) In general, sentences in English follow the standard pattern of subject - verb - object. However, by changing up the pattern and using different parts of speech we can vary our sentence structures.

For example:

A) *From 1990 to 1998, UK car sales fluctuated slightly (verb + adverb)*

B) *From 1990 to 1998, there was a slight fluctuation in UK car sales. (adj. + noun)*

▫ **Start the sentence with a prepositional phrase**

Example:

Since the beginning of the 1990s, technology has become an increasingly important part of our everyday lives.

With regards to age group three, one can see that over 50 year olds ate 60% more pulses than 0-24 year olds.

In time, I hope that copyright laws become obsolete.

▫ **Use relative pronouns**

At the base level, pronouns replace and/or moderate nouns. We are probably more familiar with personal pronouns such as 'I', 'me', 'you', 'him', etc. Relative pronouns are important parts of speech to use when you want to link subordinate clauses in sentences. The most common relative pronouns are: who, whom, which, whoever, whomever, whichever, and that.

A) Children enjoy video games. Children prefer playing sports. They have better reflex abilities and social skills.

In this example we have three simple sentences. We can combine them together and form a complex sentence:

B) Children who (relative pronoun) enjoy video games and playing sports have better reflex abilities and social skills.

TASKS

1. The cost of relocating a company from the city to a regional location is expensive. You have to build new facilities. (Change using a subordinating.)

The cost of relocating a company from the city to a regional location is expensive because you have to build new facilities.

2. It is highly advantageous to stay in the same job for life. (Change using a prepositional phrase.)

Staying in the same job for life, is highly advantageous.

3. A dramatic change in technology in over the last ten years has led to a decline in family communication. (Change using a different part of speech).

Technology has changed dramatically over the last ten years, leading to a decline in family communication.

4. Humans should adapt to technology. Humans are inherently lazy. (Change using a relative pronoun.)

Humans, who are inherently lazy, should adapt to technology.

5. In general, American businesses will spend much more on relocating companies than China over the next 20 years. (Change using a different part of speech).

In general, much more will be spent on relocating companies by American businesses than in China over the next 20 years.

6. Copyright laws reward creativity. Copyright laws protect the creator's works of art. (Change using a subordinating conjunction).

Copyright laws reward creativity as well as protect the creator's works of art.

7. The aging population in America has grown incrementally over the the last 10 years. (Change using different part of speech).

There has been incremental growth in the aging population in America over the last 10 years.

8. The price of educating children has risen dramatically since 2010. (Change using prepositional phrase).

Since 2008, the price of education children has risen dramatically.

9. Family members like communicating through Skype. Family members can now communicate with each other anywhere in the world for free.

Family members, who like communicating through Skype, can now communicate with each other anywhere in the world for free.

Best for introductions

This essay will analyse this issue using the examples from... ..to demonstrate points and support arguments.

You will need to supply the examples in accordance with your particular topic. For instance:

This essay will analyse this issue using the examples from wartime countries and conflict zones to demonstrate points and support arguments.

and

This essay will analyse this issue using the examples from Canada, Australia and Rwanda to demonstrate points and support arguments.

It is undeniable that ___(insert problem from question)___ is one of the most challenging issues in the western world.

Best for body paragraphs (opinions)

When injecting an opposing thought, instead of using only "However," you can use:

However, it should not be forgotten (that)..." and add the opposing point.

Best for body paragraphs (examples)

Cite examples from research or studies made, using the phrase,

“For example, a recent study by _____ showed...”

*“There are also studies being performed on a global level to discover the source of these important problems. One solution proposed by the **_(insert global organisation)_** is to _____.”*

For instance:

*For example, a recent study by the **WTO** (or **U.K. government**) showed... (then supply the details of the findings).*

Best for body paragraphs

It is fairly easy to comprehend the arguments as to why this proposal has been made.

There would be at least two facets to this proposal.

There is also, however, a strong argument not to implement this proposal.

*The issue of **_X_** in western / African countries has **grown** in importance over the past few **decades**.*

*The issue of **_X_** in most continents has **fallen** in importance over the past few **years**.*

Best for supporting sentences

Instead of saying “There is proof that...” you can say, instead:

There is ample evidence to suggest that...

For instance:

There is ample evidence to suggest that scientists will promptly discover...

and

There is ample evidence to suggest that local governments will be implementing ...

Best for supporting sentences

Give your findings a supportive introduction using the phrase:

Numerous studies have consistently found that ...

Then provide your conclusion, for instance:

Numerous studies have consistently found that children from economically advanced countries...

and

Numerous studies have consistently found that students who learn 3 languages have a reduced chance of contracting Alzheimer's.

Best for strengthening an argument by being specific

Instead of generalising, enumerate or cite samples. For instance:

Replace:

Recent electronic gadgets have...

with

Electronic gadgets such as the smartphone, the laptop, and the 3D printer have drastically increased worker productivity.

Replace:

Serious diseases are a recurring matter...

with

Serious diseases such as malaria, ebola and dengue fever bring about a considerable amount of expenses.

Best for conclusions

As such it can be concluded that...

This phrase is specifically useful during a closing argument, it ties together every trail of thought

Example: *As such it can be concluded that in the era and age of technology, globalisation and the need to be trendy, social media marketing can influence what consumers buy.*