Sentence Structure & Variety
What do you mean?

Structure - arrangement or organization

Variety - a state of being different or diverse
WHY should sentences be structured and varied?

- grammatically correct
- makes writing less choppy
- reduces repetition
- provides smoother flow
- engages audience/reader
- strengthens academic writing
The Winslow family visited Canada and Alaska last summer. The Winslow family found some native American art. They found soapstone carvings and wall hangings. Anchorage had many soapstone items. They really wanted wall hangings. They were sad to find out they were difficult to find.
The Winslow family visited Canada and Alaska last summer to find some native American art, such as soapstone carvings and wall hangings. Anchorage stores had many soapstone items available. Still, they were disappointed to learn that wall hangings, which they had especially wanted, were difficult to find. Sadly, they left empty-handed.
WHY should sentences be structured and varied?

- grammatically correct
- makes writing less choppy
- reduces repetition
- provides smoother flow
- engages audience/reader
- strengthens academic writing
Achieving Sentence Variety → Proper sentence structure
Types of sentences

1. Simple Sentence
2. Compound Sentence
3. Complex Sentence
4. Compound-Complex Sentence
The **Simple** Sentence

is made up of one **independent clause**.

**Subject** + **Verb** = **complete sentence**

→ **Brenda** loves Mexico.

→ **Steven** is from the country of Taiwan.

→ **Kala** was excited to be one of the winners of the storytelling contest.

→ **Scott and Rona** lead The Writing Center.
The **Compound Sentence** is made up of **two independent clauses** connected by one **coordinating conjunction**.

Independent clause + **comma and coordinating conjunction** + Independent clause = compound sentence.

**COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS:**

- F - , for
- B - , but
- A - , and
- O - , or
- N - , nor
- Y - , yet
- S - , so
Brenda loves California, and she loves Mexico more.

Steven is from the country of Taiwan, but he attends graduate school at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks California.

There is a problem everywhere, yet no one will admit it.

Andy took a leave of absence for two months, so Valerie worked in his place until he returned.
The Complex Sentence

What is a **dependent clause**?

- incomplete thought
- statement that cannot stand alone
- needs support from an independent clause to be complete

**SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS**

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<th>after</th>
<th>although</th>
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We’re lonely.

Examples of dependent clauses:

because Matthew and Sam arrived at the bus station before noon

while she waited on her Uber ride

After class was dismissed,

Even though he was wealthy,

since the snowstorm was approaching
The Complex Sentence

Pattern #1

consists of:

**Subordinating conjunction/Dependent clause + comma + Independent clause = complex sentence**

- Although the semester ended, she continued to study.
- Because my coffee was too cold, I reheated it in the microwave.
- Even though he was wealthy, he was still unhappy.
- Whenever prices goes up, customers tend to buy less to save money.
- After this semester ends, I’ll only have three more semester left before graduating.
The Complex Sentence

Pattern #2

consists of:

Independent clause + subordinating conjunction/dependent clause = complex sentence

→ Diviya would not allow herself to eat any desserts unless she worked out three days a week.

→ She returned the computer after noticing it was damaged.

→ Professor Warren canceled his 2:00 class since the snowstorm was approaching.

→ It is always better to buy required books before the first class of the semester.

→ Disney has one of the most successful business plans when it comes to retaining repeat customers.
### Compound-Complex Sentence

1. **combines** the compound and complex sentence
2. one or more dependent clauses
3. two or more independent clauses
4. includes **coordinating** and **subordinating conjunctions**

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**Compound sentence**
The study group was getting tired, but they continued working.

**Complex sentence**
Although the study group was tired, they continued working.

**Compound-Complex (sentences combined)**
The study group was tired, but they continued working even though it was almost midnight.
<table>
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<th>Dependent clause</th>
<th>+ Independent clause</th>
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<td><em>When</em> my boss yelled at me,</td>
<td>I got angry,</td>
<td><em>(so)</em> I quit.</td>
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**Subordinating conjunctions**: red  
**Coordinating conjunctions**: blue
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<th>+ Dependent clause</th>
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<td>My boss yelled at me,</td>
<td>(so) I quit</td>
<td>because I was hurt.</td>
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<td>I got angry</td>
<td>when my boss yelled at me,</td>
<td>(so) I quit,</td>
<td>(yet) I should have remained calm.</td>
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The Compound- Complex

one or more dependent clauses  +  
two or more independent clauses  =  
compound complex sentence

Mia left for school before her mother could tell her the good news, but surprisingly she came back a minute later.

Organizational Theory is full for the semester, so you will have to enroll in another course since it is a requirement to take at least 12 hours per semester.

Although the exercise was difficult, we managed to finish it on time, so we passed the exam.
Sentence variety and structure are important!
WHY should sentences be structured and varied?

- grammatically correct
- makes writing less choppy
- reduces repetition
- provides smoother flow
- engages audience/reader
- strengthens academic writing
Today we learned....

1. Simple Sentence
SUBJECT + VERB = COMPLETE SENTENCE/INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

2. Compound Sentence
INDEPENDENT CLAUSE + COMMA + COordinating conjunction + INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

3. Complex Sentence
PATTERN 1 - INDEPENDENT CLAUSE + SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION + DEPENDENT CLAUSE
PATTERN 2 - SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION AND DEPENDENT CLAUSE + INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

4. Compound - complex Sentence
1+ DEPENDENT CLAUSES + 2+ INDEPENDENT CLAUSES
Questions?

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY

OR

EMAIL US!

writingcenter@calllutheran.edu
Thank you!