

Sentence Types

1. Simple Sentence: One Main (Or Independent) Clause

- **Students (subject) write (verb).**
- **Students (subject) write (verb) essays (object).**
- **The Writing Centre (subject) is (verb) fabulous (complement).**
- **Laurier's Writing Centre (subject) helps (verb) undergraduate and graduate students write effectively (object).**

2. Compound Sentence: Two Main Clauses Of Equal Importance

- **The Writing Centre (subject) is (verb) fabulous (complement); it (subject) helps (verb) students (object).**
- **The Writing Centre is fabulous; (main clause + semi-colon) it helps students. (main clause)**
- **The Writing Centre (subject) is (verb) fabulous (complement), and (coordinating conjunction) it (subject) helps (verb) students (object).**
- **The Writing Centre is fabulous, (main clause + comma) and it helps students (main clause).**

The two main clauses are joined by:

1. A semicolon; OR
2. A comma plus a coordinating conjunction: and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet.

See page 439 of *The Brief Penguin Handbook*, 3rd ed. (2014) for additional coordinating conjunctions.

3. Complex Sentence: One Main Clause and One Or More Subordinate Clauses

- **You (subject) should come (verb) to the Writing Centre (object) if (subordinating conjunction) you (subject) need (verb) writing advice. (object)**
- **You should come to the Writing Centre (main clause) if you need writing advice. (subordinate clause)**
- **If (subordinating conjunction) you (subject) need (verb) writing advice (object), you (subject) should come (verb) to the Writing Centre. (object)**
- **If you need writing advice, (subordinate clause + comma) you should come to the Writing Centre. (main clause)**

See page 439 of *The Brief Penguin Handbook*, 3rd ed. (2014) for additional subordinating conjunctions.

4. Compound Complex Sentence: Two Main Clauses And One Or More Subordinate Clauses

- **You (subject) should come (verb) to the Writing Centre (object) if (subordinating conjunction) you (subject) need (verb) writing advice, (object) and (coordinating conjunction) a tutor (subject) will help(verb) you. (object)**
- **You should come to the Writing Centre (main clause) if you need writing advice, (subordinate clause + comma) and a tutor will help you. (main clause)**
- **If (subordinating conjunction) you (subject) need (verb) writing advice (object), you (subject) should come (verb) to the Writing Centre, (object) and (coordinating conjunction) a tutor (subject) will help(verb) you. (object)**
- **If you need writing advice, (subordinate clause + comma) you should come to the Writing Centre, (main clause + comma) and a tutor will help you. (main clause)**

© *B. Samuels & J. Garbati, 2013*