

# Literacy

## Writing Sentences

You can influence the response of your readers by using a variety of sentence structures.

### The Simple Sentence has:

one main idea                      one subject                      one verb  
and of course...clear punctuation.

A simple sentence can be very simple. *Our example:* The dog barked.

*Your example:*

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Or you can modify a simple sentence by adding **adjectives** and **adverbs** for extra information.

*Our example:*                      The **big black** dog moved **swiftly** and barked **loudly**.

*Your example:*

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### The Compound Sentence has:

two or more main ideas joined with the connective 'and', 'but', 'or'

*Our example:* David likes music and Susan likes shopping.

*Your example:*

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### The Complex Sentence has:

one main idea and one or more additional ideas  
connectives to link ideas  
and of course...clear punctuation.

Complex sentences can be organised in a variety of ways to achieve different effects.

Extra information can be added **after** the main idea:

*Our example:* Sweets are very nice **although they are bad for your health**.

*Your example:*

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Or extra information can be placed **before** the main idea:

*Our example:* **Although they are bad for your health**, sweets are very nice.

*Your example:*

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Or extra information can even be embedded **within** the main idea,  
between the subject and the verb.

*Our example:* Sweets, **although they are bad for your health**, are very nice.

*Your example:*

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### Subordinate Clauses

Using subordinate clauses can add a range of ideas to your sentences.

Common subordinators:

Time (after, when, as, before, since, while, until)	
Place (where, wherever)	Condition (unless, if, supposing)
Reason (because, since, as)	Contrast (whereas, whilst)
Concession (although, though)	Describing (who, which, that, whose)

**Try using these connectives to build more complex sentences of your own.**