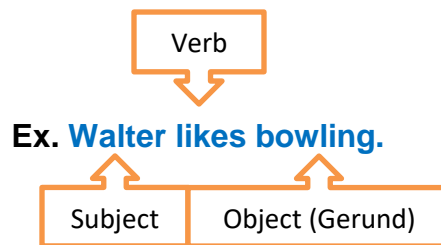


## Sentence Patterns

Perhaps the most underrated of stylistic elements, **sentence structure** is actually quite important in **ordering your ideas**, **establishing emphasis**, **enhancing flow**, and **varying how you convey ideas**, all of which contribute to your personal 'voice' as a writer. You can develop this voice by practicing the following four sentence patterns:

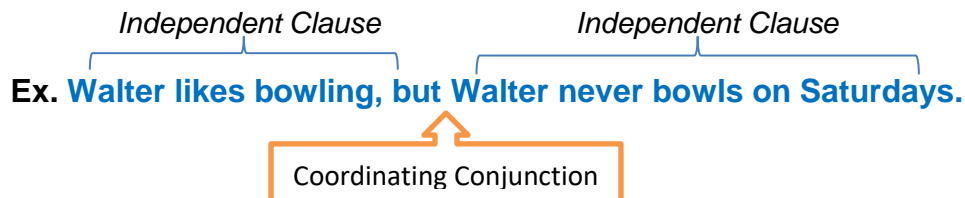
### Simple Sentences

The most basic sentence type, simple sentences are simply independent clauses containing a subject and a predicate (verb + object noun).



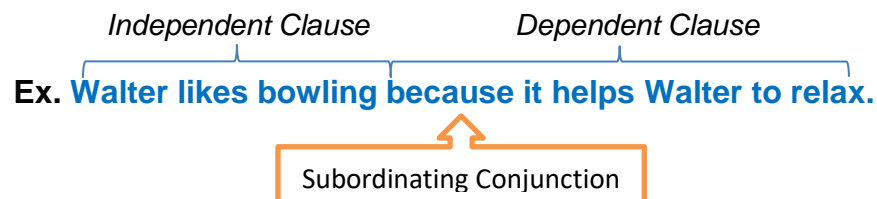
### Compound Sentences

Compound sentences combine two or more independent clauses using a **comma** and a **coordinating conjunction** (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).



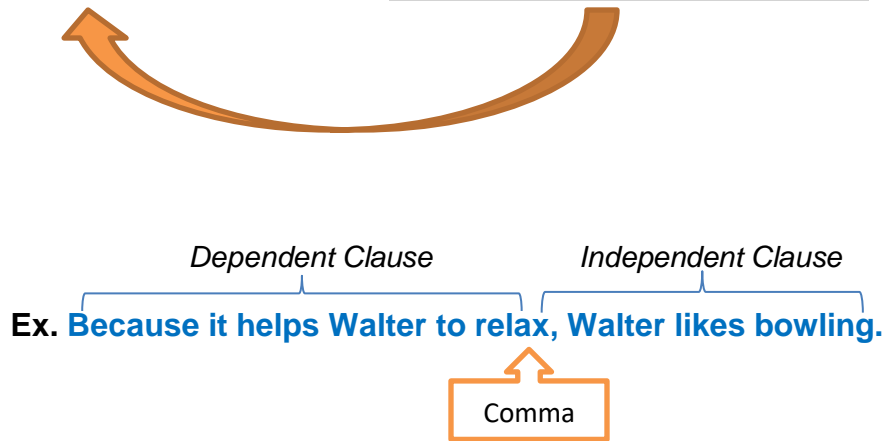
### Complex Sentences

While compound sentences combine two independent clauses, complex sentences, by comparison, join together an independent clause and at least one dependent clause using a **subordinating conjunction**.



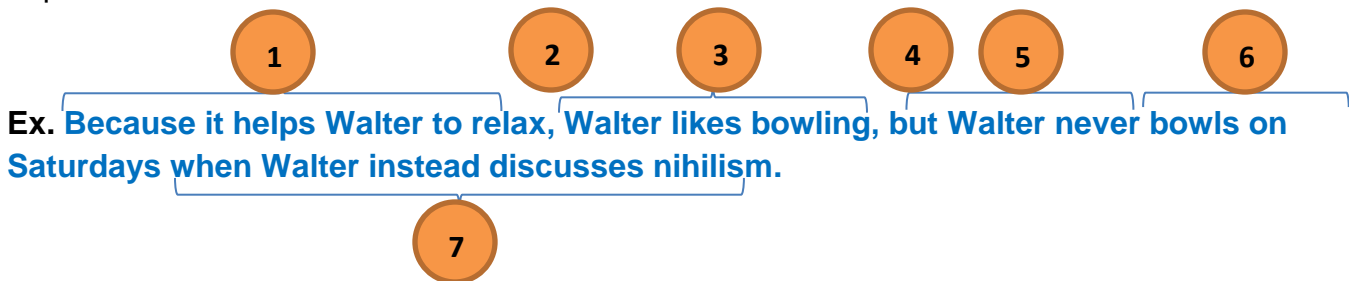
**Note:** To vary your expression of ideas even more, place the dependent clause at the **beginning** of the sentence. Whenever you do this, however, remember to **include a comma** between the dependent and independent clauses.

Ex. **Walter likes bowling** because it helps Walter to relax.



## Compound-Complex Sentences

The compound-complex sentence combines two or more independent clauses with one or more dependent clauses.



- 1 **Dependent Clause:** *Because it helps Walter to relax*
- 2 **Punctuation:** Comma whenever a dependent clause begins a sentence
- 3 **Independent Clause:** *Walter likes bowling*
- 4 **Coordinating Conjunction:** Joining word that links two independent clauses
- 5 **Independent Clause:** *Walter never bowls*
- 6 **Prepositional Phrase:** *On Saturdays*
- 7 **Dependent Clause:** *When Walter instead discusses nihilism.*