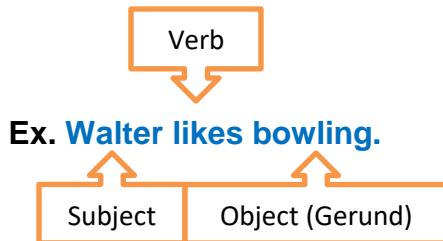


Sentence Patterns

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:

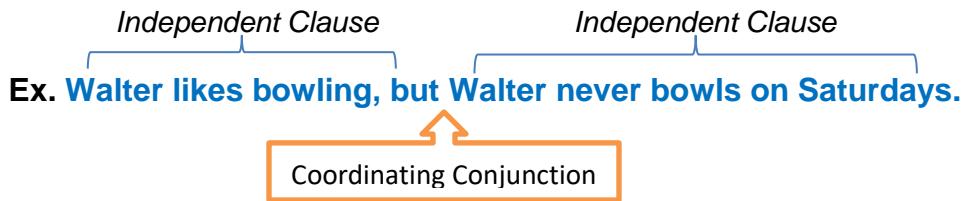
Simple Sentences

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



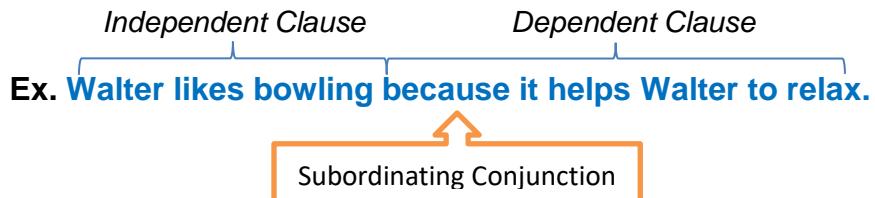
Compound Sentences

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.**



Dependent Clause

Independent Clause

Ex. **Because it helps Walter to relax, Walter likes bowling.**

Comma

Compound-Complex Sentences

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



Ex. **Because it helps Walter to relax, Walter likes bowling, but Walter never bowls on Saturdays when Walter instead discusses nihilism.**

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- 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.***