

## 1 Here's the Idea

A sentence is classified according to its structure, that is, the number and kinds of clauses it contains.

▶ **There are four kinds of basic sentence structures: simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex.**

### Simple Sentences

A **simple sentence** consists of one independent clause and no subordinate clauses.

**Different personality types may share similar interests.**

A simple sentence can contain a compound subject, a compound verb, or both.

**Extroverts and introverts may love books and fear dogs.**

COMPOUND  
SUBJECT

COMPOUND  
VERB

### Compound Sentences

A **compound sentence** contains two or more independent clauses joined together. The clauses in many compound sentences are joined with a coordinating conjunction.

**Some people like change, but others like stability.**

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

Compound sentences can also be joined with just a semicolon or with a semicolon and a conjunctive adverb such as *however*, *nevertheless*, *finally*, or *then*.

**Some people like change; others like stability.**

**Some people like change; however, others like stability.**

For more about coordinating conjunctions and conjunctive adverbs, see p. 21.

## Complex Sentences

A **complex sentence** contains one independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

**Although only-children differ, they often share many traits.**

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

A sentence that contains a noun clause as part of the independent clause is still considered complex. In the following sentence, a subordinate noun clause functions as the subject of a complex sentence.

**Whoever lives in this house must love the color red.**

SUBORDINATE NOUN CLAUSE

## Compound-Complex Sentences

A **compound-complex sentence** has two or more independent clauses and one or more subordinate clauses.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

**Researchers have studied couples who have contrasting personalities, and the results have been interesting.**

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

For more on sentence structures, see p. 24.