



Writing Centre

Sentence Types

There are four types of sentences: **simple**, **compound**, **complex** and **compound-complex**.

1. A **simple** sentence uses one independent clause.

The TRU Writing Centre is a useful place.

There is one subject and verb, which express a complete thought.

2. A **compound** sentence uses two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

The Writing Centre is a useful place, and the room is bright and cheerful.

There are two subjects and verbs, joined by the coordinating conjunction *and*. Remember to use a comma with the coordinating conjunction as it is followed by a complete sentence.

3. A **complex** sentence uses one or more dependent clauses and an independent clause, joined by a subordinate conjunction (after, before, when, because, although) or a relative pronoun (that, which, who).

After finishing high school, Jane hopes to attend university.

The students are studying because they have a test.

4. A **compound-complex** sentence is a combination of a compound and complex sentence.

The Writing Centre is a useful place, and the students like to work with the tutors, especially when it is midterms or exam period.

Using a variety of sentence types in your writing makes it more interesting and shows your grasp of the English language.