Sentence Construction includes rules and methods for writing.

The structure of a sentence includes the use of nouns, verbs, adverbs, etc. There are rules and methods in structuring sentences. There are four types of sentences depending on the structure. They are:

- Simple
- Compound
- Complex
- Compound-complex

As the sentence is being structured, thought is given to the purpose of the sentence. There are four sentence types when considering purpose. They are:

- Declarative
- Exclamatory
- Imperative
- Interrogative

While writing, one must consider both the purpose and the structure of sentences. For example: A simple sentence (structure of single noun and verb) may be declarative, exclamatory, imperative or interrogative depending on the need of the writer.

- Simple sentence – Declarative sentence = The dog barks.
- Simple sentence – Exclamatory sentence = I love football!
- Simple sentence – Imperative sentence = Please, go to the store.
- Simple sentence – interrogative sentence = Will you jump rope?

1. Sentence type classified by structure:

   - simple sentence – the most basic type of sentence structure containing a single noun and verb. It describes only one thing, idea, or question and can also be referred to as an independent clause.

   Examples: The dog barks.
   The brown dog with the red collar always barks loudly.
   The brown dog with the red collar barks and growls loudly.

   Melt!
   Ice melts.
   The ice melts quickly.
   The ice on the river melts quickly under the warm March sun.
   Lying exposed without its blanket of snow, the ice on the river melts quickly under the warm March sun.

As you can see, a simple sentence can be quite long – it is a mistake to think that you can tell a simple sentence from a compound sentence or a complex sentence simply by its length.

http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/sntstrct.html
http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/sentencetext.htm#Simple
http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/writingcenter/290/sentencetypes.pdf
• **compound sentence** – consists of two or more independent clauses or simple sentences that make sense alone and when combined, indicate a relationship between the two thoughts. The simple sentences are joined by coordinating conjunctions including *and, but, or, for, nor, so, and yet.*

Example:

**Simple**
The sun was setting in the west.

**Simple**
The moon was just rising.

**Compound**
The sun was setting in the west and the moon was just rising.

http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/sentencetext.htm#Compound
http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/sntstrct.html
https://mit.imoat.net/handbook/cnj-coor.htm
http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/writingcenter/290/sentencetypes.pdf

• **complex sentence** – describes more than one thing or idea and contains more than one verb. The complex sentence contains one independent clause and at least one dependent clause which are not equal.

Examples:

**Simple**
My friend invited me to a party. I did not want to go.

**Compound**
My friend invited me to a party, but I did not want to go.

**Complex**
Although my friend invited me to a party, I do not want to go.

The compound sentence contains two independent sentences that are entirely equal and the reader cannot tell which is most important. The complex sentence has changed quite a bit as a result of adding “although” at the beginning, making it clear that the more important part of the sentence is that fact that you did not want to go.

http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/sentencetext.htm#Complex
http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/sntstrct.html
• **Note:** There are some references to a **compound-complex sentence** as a specific type of compound sentence with one or more dependent clauses. Conjunctive adverbs and semicolons are used to join clauses together.

**Example:** Since Nga lost her car keys, she had to take the bus to Cabrillo, and she was late for her biology class.

The package arrived in the morning, but the courier left before I could check the contents.

Sir John A. Macdonald had a serious drinking problem; when sober, however, he could be a formidable foe in the House of Commons.

The sun rises in the east; it sets in the west.


A conjunctive adverb is *not* strong enough to join two independent clauses without the aid of a semicolon.

http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/sntstrct.html
http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/writingcenter/290/sentencetypes.pdf

2. **Sentence type classified by ****purpose**:  

• **declarative sentence** - also referred to as a statement; states an idea or presents information. It does not give a command or request, nor does it ask a question. A declarative sentence usually ends in a period, though it may end in an exclamation point.

**Example:** He eats ice cream.

Football is a sport. It is a game for two teams.

Makers of beer and soft-drink containers in the U.S. produce 300 million aluminum beverage cans a day, 100 billion of them every year. - William Hostold and John Duncan, "The Aluminum Beverage Can," *Scientific American*

http://englishplus.com/grammar/00000071.htm
http://www.teachingandlearningresources.co.uk/sentences.shtml
https://mit.imoat.net/handbook/s-types.htm
- **exclamatory sentence** - also referred to as an exclamation; a sentence that expresses a strong feeling and is spoken with the same strong emotion or intensity. An exclamatory sentence is normally punctuated with an exclamation point at the end.

  Example: I love football!
  It's a brilliant game!

  [http://englishplus.com/grammar/00000332.htm](http://englishplus.com/grammar/00000332.htm)
  [http://www.teachingandlearningresources.co.uk/sentences.shtml](http://www.teachingandlearningresources.co.uk/sentences.shtml)

- **imperative sentence** - also referred to as an order; requests or commands someone to do something. An imperative sentence seldom expresses the subject and is usually understood to be the word *you*. An exclamation mark may or may not be used. It is usually considered impolite to use imperative sentences without the word "Please". It is better to say "Please, come here." than just "Come here."

  The simplest English sentences are imperative sentences with a single verb such as, "Help!".

  Examples: Go away!
  Please go away.

  Don't play football there! Go to the park instead.

  Purge the cache before continuing.

  John, come here please. (*John* is not the subject but a direct address.)

  [http://englishplus.com/grammar/00000337.htm](http://englishplus.com/grammar/00000337.htm)
  [http://www.teachingandlearningresources.co.uk/sentences.shtml](http://www.teachingandlearningresources.co.uk/sentences.shtml)
  [https://mit.imoat.net/handbook/s-types.htm](https://mit.imoat.net/handbook/s-types.htm)
• **interrogative sentence** - also referred to as a question. Interrogative sentences are direct questions and ask for information, confirmation, or denial of a statement. It typically begins with a question word such as *what, who,* or *how* or an auxiliary verb such as *do, can,* or *would.* Correct punctuation is a question mark at the end.

In English, an interrogative sentence normally changes the word order so that the verb or part of the verb comes before the subject.

Examples:  

- Do you like this?
- Who can read this?
- How many roads must a man walk down?

Note that an indirect question does not make a sentence interrogative:

Direct/Interrogative  
When was Lester Pearson prime minister?

Indirect/Declarative  
I wonder when Lester Pearson was prime minister.

A direct question requires an answer from the reader, while an indirect question does not.

http://englishplus.com/grammar/00000343.htm  
http://www.teachingandlearningresources.co.uk/sentences.shtml  
https://mit.imoat.net/handbook/s-types.htm  
http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/sntpurps.html

*Note:* There are some references to **conditional sentences** as an additional type of sentence structure. They are used to indicate dependencies between events or conditions.

Example: If you cut all the trees, there will be no forest.