ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Simple sentences

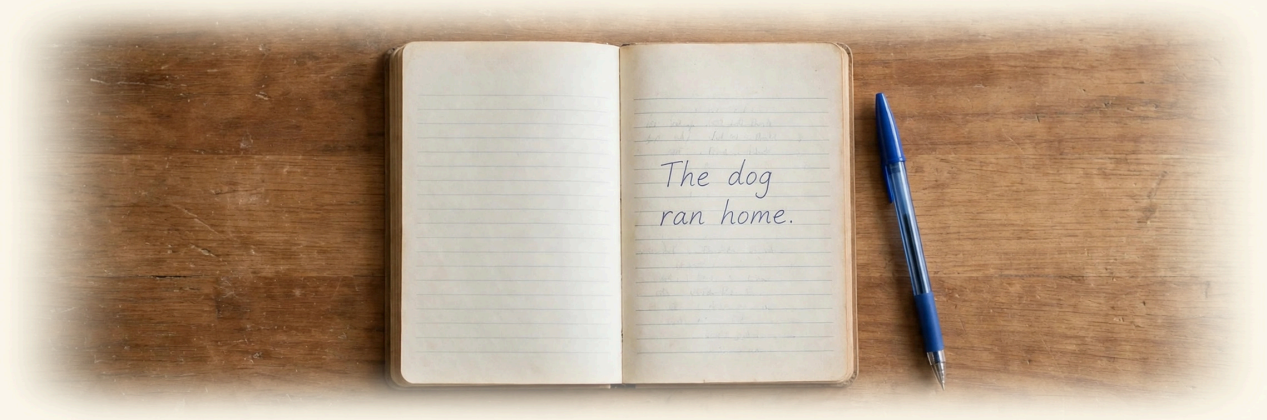
Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you write one clear idea in a single sentence, so a reader follows your point without getting lost halfway through. A student who packs three ideas into one sentence leaves the reader unsure which point matters most. A writer who splits a tangled sentence into two short ones makes the same ideas easy to follow. Knowing simple sentences tells you how to say one thing clearly at a time, which is the foundation for all clear writing.



Rule

Simple sentences: a simple sentence has exactly one independent clause, one subject and verb pair that can stand alone.

Two independent clauses joined together is not a simple sentence.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Is this a simple sentence? The cat slept.

SOLUTION

Count the clauses: one subject and verb pair, 'cat slept'.

One independent clause means a simple sentence.

Yes, it is a simple sentence.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Is this a simple sentence? The cat slept, and the dog barked.

SOLUTION

Count the clauses: 'cat slept' and 'dog barked' are two independent clauses.

Two clauses joined by 'and' still make a compound sentence, not a simple one.

No, it is a compound sentence.

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Practice questions

1 Is this simple? Birds sing.

- A Yes
- B No

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2 Is this simple? Birds sing and fly.

- A Yes
- B No

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3 Is this simple? When it rained, we stayed in.

- A Yes
- B No

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4 Is this simple? The tall tree fell down.

- A Yes
- B No

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5 Is this simple? Sara read, and Tom wrote.

- A Yes
- B No

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6 Is this simple? The dog barked loudly.

- A Yes
- B No

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7 **Is this simple? We ran fast because we were late.**

A Yes

B No

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8 **Is this simple? She smiled.**

A Yes

B No

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9 **Is this simple? The boys played soccer after school.**

A Yes

B No

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10 **Is this simple? I like tea, but I love coffee.**

A Yes

B No

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ANSWER KEY

1. Yes

2. Yes

3. No

4. Yes

5. No

6. Yes

7. No

8. Yes

9. Yes

10. No

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