



## SENTENCE TYPE EXERCISES

**Exercise 1:** Identify which of the following sentences are simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex:

- Biomedical engineers created the first bionic arm.
- Through the use of motors and pulleys, users of the bionic arm could actually grip onto items.
- Mechanical hearts can replace real hearts, so biomedical engineering saves lives.
- As we get older, gravity compresses our spines, so biomedical engineers are working on ways to regenerate spinal discs.
- Anthracite is unique to Pennsylvania, and it is the hardest coal.
- Although many chemical engineers work for public universities, many put their abilities to use in the private sector, and some chemical engineers even work for companies like Coco-Cola.
- Despite seeming insignificant, the Great Lakes contain over 20 percent of the planet's freshwater supply.
- Nitrogen is the most abundant chemical in our atmosphere.

**Exercise 2:** Invent/write a simple sentence, a compound sentence, a complex sentence, and a compound-complex sentence. Generate sentences involving the material discussed in your class, or write about whatever you would like.

**Exercise 3:** Go through a paper you have already written and see what kinds of sentences you have composed. See, for example, if you can rewrite a simple sentence as a complex sentence, etc.



## Answer Key

Identify which of the following sentences are simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex.

Notice that independent clauses are marked with dark blue, dependent clauses are marked by orange; conjunctions are in grey.

### Simple

Biomedical engineers created the first bionic arm.

### Complex

Through the use of motors and pulleys, users of the bionic arm could actually grip onto items.

### Compound

Mechanical hearts can replace real hearts, so biomedical engineering saves lives.

### Compound-complex

As we get older, gravity compresses our spines, so biomedical engineers are working on ways to regenerate spinal discs.

### Compound

Anthracite is unique to Pennsylvania, and it is the hardest coal.

### Compound-complex

Although many chemical engineers work for public universities, many put their abilities to use in the private sector, and some chemical engineers even work for companies like Coco-Cola.

### Complex

Despite seeming insignificant, the Great Lakes contain over 20 percent of the planet's freshwater supply.

### Simple

Nitrogen is the most abundant chemical in our atmosphere.