SENTENCE TYPE PRACTICE

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.
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.