Sentence Structures

What are Sentence Structures?
There are four types of sentence structures: simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex. Using these different types of sentence structures allows you to add variety to your essays.

Four Types of Sentence Structures:
1. **Simple Sentence**
   A simple sentence is one independent clause with no subordinate clauses. This sentence contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought.

   \[
   \text{Ex: } \text{Last winter was unusually cold.}\]

   independent clause

2. **Compound Sentence**
   A compound sentence is formed with two or more independent clauses with no subordinate clauses. A comma and a conjunction will most likely join these clauses, though a semicolon may also join sentences.

   \[
   \text{Ex: } \text{Last January was extremely cold, but February was even colder.}\]

   independent clause independent clause

3. **Complex Sentence**
   A complex sentence contains one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. The dependent clauses may precede, follow, or be "imbedded" within the independent clause.

   \[
   \text{Ex: } \text{The girls were delighted because their mother let them play in the snow.}\]

   independent clause dependent clause

4. **Compound-Complex Sentence**
   A compound-complex sentence contains at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

   \[
   \text{Ex: } \text{Although officials finally came, many students had already left the auditorium, and the others who remained were upset by the delay.}\]

   dependent clause independent clause

Remember:
There are four types of sentence structures. Using them adds variety to your essays.