**Types of Sentences**

There are four types of sentences: simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex. A sentence contains one or more clauses, and you can classify a sentence as one of the four types by assessing the number and types of clauses it contains.

**Simple Sentences**

A simple sentence contains a single independent clause—that is, a subject and a predicate that form a complete thought:

**It** is an ice cream cone.

**The girl** bought an ice cream cone.

A simple sentence is not necessarily simple. Take the following example:

**The girl**—a freckle-faced brunette, about ten years old, in a striped dress and sandals—bought an ice cream cone.

The subject of the sentence is still *the girl.* The predicate is *bought an ice cream cone*. The part of the sentence between the dashes modifies *the girl.*

**Compound Sentences**

A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (*and*, *but*, *yet*, *for*, *or*, *nor*, or *so*), a conjunctive adverb (e.g., *however*, *furthermore*, *likewise, rather*, *therefore*), or a semicolon:

**The girl bought an ice cream cone**, but**she dropped it in the park**.

**The girl bought an ice cream cone**; however,**she dropped it in the park**.

**The girl bought an ice cream cone; she dropped it in the park.**

**Complex Sentences**

A complex sentence contains one or more dependent clauses attached to an independent clause. The dependent clauses are connected to the independent clause through subordinating conjunctions (e.g., *because*, *after*, *when*) or relative pronouns (*who*, *which*, *that*).

After she bought an ice cream cone, **the girl went to the park.**

**The girl dropped her ice cream cone** because a large dog knocked her over.

**The girl,** who had a freckled face and wore a striped shirt, **was knocked over by a large dog**, which ate her ice cream cone.

Note that in the last example, the dependent clause *who had a freckled face and wore a striped shirt*, interrupts the independent clause *The girl was knocked over by a large dog.*

**Compound-Complex Sentences**

A compound-complex sentence contains one or more dependent clauses attached to one or more independent clauses.

After she bought an ice cream cone, **the girl**, who had a freckled face and wore a striped shirt, **went to the park**, but **she was knocked over by a large dog**, which ate her treat, so **she ran home to her mother**, who made her an ice cream sundae.