

Find the Sentence Patterns

Clues to find a Simple Sentence:

- It has one complete thought.
- It may have multiple subjects and predicates, and some describing words.

*The hungry baby **cried (verb)** for the cold rice cereal.*

Clues to find a Compound Sentence:

- Has two complete thoughts (combined by a conjunction).
- Has two verbs and may also have some describing words.

*The baby **cried (verb)** for the cold rice cereal and then she **laughed (verb)**.*

Clues to find a Complex Sentence:

- It has one complete thought and added phrases to add description, sometimes separated by a comma.
- A complex sentence always has a subordinator (e.g., as, because, since, after, although, when) or relative pronouns (e.g., who, that, which).

*The baby **cried (verb)** for the cold rice cereal right before she fell asleep.*

Read the short piece below. As you read, find and count the simple sentences, compound sentences, and complex sentences. Write your totals of how many you found below the story.

Mud. Mud was everywhere. Mud was in my shoes, in my socks, and even in my underwear! I thought that the bike race would be a piece of cake, but after the rain it was a disaster! The rain started as a sprinkle before the sun came up, and it continued to pour for the next four hours. The race started at 3pm, after the rain had fully stopped. Across the mud pits we dashed, one competitor passing another. Up and down the hills we soared, launching off the peaks and into waiting puddles at the bottom. If it weren't for the fact that everyone else got injured, I wouldn't have won first place. I think I'll wear a rubber suit next time it rains on competition day.

How many simple sentences did you find? _____

How many compound sentences did you find? _____

How many complex sentences did you find? _____