Sentence Variety: Writing Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences

I can identify and write a variety of simple, compound and complex sentences.

Source Used: Write Source
What can I do to add variety to my writing?

Writers use different types of sentences to add variety to their writing and make it sound interesting.

3 types of sentences: simple, compound, and complex
Writing Simple Sentences:

A **simple sentence** is one [independent clause-](#) a group of words that can stand alone as one sentence

A **simple sentence** may contain a single or compound subject and a single or compound predicate.
Simple Sentence Examples:

**Single Subject with a Single Predicate:**
Some students like to study in the mornings.

**Single Subject with a Compound Predicate:**
Some students like to study and eat breakfast in the mornings.

**Compound Subject with a Single Predicate:**
Sue and Lisa like to study in the mornings.
Practice identifying simple sentences:

Foxes are wild animals.

Foxes are related to wolves, but they are smarter than wolves.

A female fox is a vixen, and a young fox is called a pup.

A baby fox needs its parents' care.
Writing Compound Sentences:

A **compound sentence** is made up of two or more simple sentences (independent clauses) joined by a **comma** and a **coordinating conjunction** (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so) or by a **semicolon**.
**Compound Sentence Examples:**

A comma and a conjunction join the two independent clauses:

My brother wanted to play football, so I went shopping.

**Here, the two independent clauses are joined by a semicolon:**

My brother wanted to play football; I went shopping.
Practice writing Compound Sentences:

Join the following sets of independent clauses (simple sentences) using either a semicolon or a comma and a coordinating conjunction.

1. I am trying to learn French. I am not very good at it.

2. After school, I babysit for the family across the street. I have other responsibilities at my house.
Writing Complex Sentences:

When you join a dependent clause to an independent clause, you form a complex sentence. Complex sentences contain a relative pronoun such as that, *which* and *who*. They may also contain a subordinating conjunction such as *after, although, because, before, until, when, and while.*
Complex Sentence Examples:

**Dependent Clause**

Because I have to babysit after school,

**Independent Clause**

I rarely have time to hang out with my friends.

**Independent Clause**

Babysitting helps me earn extra money

**Dependent Clause**

that I use to buy clothes and see movies.
A complex sentence has an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses. A complex sentence always has a subordinator such as *because, since, after, although,* or *when* (and many others) or a relative pronoun such as *that, who,* or *which.* In the following complex sentences, subjects are in yellow, verbs are in green, and the subordinators and their commas (when required) are in red.

1. *When he handed in his homework, he forgot to give the teacher the last page.*
2. The teacher returned the homework *after she noticed the error.*
3. The students are studying *because they have a test tomorrow.*
4. *After they finished studying,* Juan and Maria *went to the movies.*
5. Juan and Maria *went to the movies after they finished studying.*

____________________ = subordinate (dependent) clause
____________________ = independent clause
Identifying Complex Sentences:

What is the subordinate and independent clause for the following complex sentences?

1. Trees are found almost everywhere because they grow in all climates.

2. Whereas some trees have many uses, others are simply beautiful.
Answers:

1. Trees are found almost everywhere because they grow in all climates.

2. Whereas some trees have many uses, others are simply beautiful.