SENTENCE PATTERNS

There are two kinds of clauses: independent clauses (or main clauses) which have a subject and verb and can stand alone as a complete sentence, and subordinate clauses (sometimes called dependent clauses) which have a subject and verb but cannot stand alone as a sentence. These clauses begin with subordinating conjunctions such as "after," "although," or "because."

The four main types of sentences are:
1. Simple
2. Compound
3. Complex
4. Compound-Complex

Simple Sentences:
Definition: A simple sentence has one independent clause.

Examples:
1. Barbara hates writing.
   \[\text{S V}\]
   \[\text{Barbara hates writing.}\]
   independent clause

2. The professor ordered the students to start doing their homework.
   \[\text{S V}\]
   \[\text{The professor ordered the students to start doing their homework.}\]
   independent clause

Compound Sentences:
Definition: A compound sentence has two or more independent clauses and no dependent clause. The clauses are joined together either with a coordinating conjunction, such as "and" or "but," or with a semicolon.

Examples:
1. The men went to the bar, and they ordered six martinis.
   \[\text{S V coord. conj. S V}\]
   \[\text{The men went to the bar, and they ordered six martinis.}\]
   independent clause independent clause
   Note: related independent clauses joined with a comma and coordinating conjunction

2. John's girlfriend made a terrible racket in the kitchen; she disturbed his concentration.
   \[\text{S V semi-colon S V}\]
   \[\text{John's girlfriend made a terrible racket in the kitchen; she disturbed his concentration.}\]
   independent clause independent clause
   Note: a semicolon may join two related independent clauses.

Complex Sentences:
Definition: A complex sentence has at least one independent clause and at least one
subordinate clause.

Examples:

1. After Susan ate in the dining hall, she developed a case of food poisoning.

   **subord.**
   **conj.**  
   S  V  S  V  
   [After Susan ate in the dining hall.] [she developed a case of food poisoning.]  
   subordinate clause  independent clause  
   Note: A comma comes after an introductory subordinate clause.

2. I gave up studying because I could not concentrate while my roommate watched music videos.

   **subord.**
   **subord.**
   S  V  V  S  V  
   [I gave up studying] [because I could not concentrate] [while my roommate watched music videos.]  
   independent clause  subordinate clause  subordinate clause  
   Note: If the subordinate clause is after the independent clause, no comma is needed.

**Compound—Complex Sentences:**

Definition: The compound-complex sentence joins two or more independent clauses and one or more subordinate clauses.

Examples:

1. John felt uneasy before the fraternity party, but he talked for hours once he got there.

   **coord.**
   **subord.**
   S  V  S  V  S  V  
   [John felt uneasy before the fraternity party,] [but he talked for hours] [once he arrived.]  
   independent clause  subordinate clause  independent clause  subordinate clause  

2. Although Curly tried to stop him, Moe bought ten pieces of gold; afterward, Larry found out that the gold was painted rocks.

   **conjunction**
   **subord.**
   S  V  S  V  S  V  
   [Although Curly tried to stop him.] [Moe bought ten pieces of gold;] [afterward, Larry found out] [that the gold was simply painted rocks.]  
   subordinate clause  independent clause  independent clause  subordinate clause  
   Note: a semicolon followed by a conjunctive adverb then a comma is used to join sentences in this example.