SIMPLE SENTENCES: AVOID REPETITION - COMBINE WITH OTHER SENTENCES

A simple sentence, also called an independent clause, contains a subject and a verb, and it expresses a complete thought. In the following simple sentences, subjects are underlined, and verbs are in italics.

Examples:

a) **Alicia** prefers morning classes. **She** works in the afternoon.
   **Barry** prefers morning classes. **He** studies in the afternoon.
   (combine – compound subjects, compound sentence)

b) **Alicia** and **Barry** prefer morning classes because **she** works in the afternoon and **he** studies in the afternoon.
   (combine again – complex sentence)

c) Although **Alicia** prefers morning classes because of her work schedule, **Barry** prefers them because **he needs** to study in the afternoon.
   Because **Alicia** has afternoon work hours and **Barry** needs afternoon time to study, **they** both prefer morning classes.

COMPLEX SENTENCES: SUBORDINATE CONTENT TO REVEAL CAUSE AND EFFECT

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 or a relative pronoun such as that, who, or which. In the following complex sentences, subjects are underlined, verbs are in italics, and the subordinators and their commas [when required] are in bold.

Examples:

a) **When** he handed in his homework[,] **he** forgot to put a word count at the bottom.

b) The **teacher** returned the homework **after** she noticed the error.

c) The **students** are revising thoroughly **because** they have an in-class essay on Monday.

d) **After** they finished drafting their essays[,] **Alicia** and **Barry** went to the new ‘Hobbit’ movie.

e) **Alicia** and **Barry** went to see the new ‘Hobbit’ movie **after** they finished their first drafts.

When a complex sentence begins with a subordinator such as sentences A and D, a comma is required at the end of the dependent clause. When the independent clause begins the sentence with subordinators in the middle as in sentences B, C, and E, no comma is required.

COMPLEX SENTENCES / ADJECTIVE CLAUSES: ADD DETAIL AND QUALIFYING CLAUSES

Finally, sentences containing adjective clauses (or dependent clauses) are also complex because they contain an independent clause (underlined) and a dependent clause [in brackets]. Markings for subjects, verbs, and subordinators are the same as in the previous sentences.

Examples:

a) The man [**who** called at work] **buys** used textbooks. [combining: The man **called** at work. **He** buys used textbooks.]

b) The textbook [**that** Barry read] **is** in his backpack. [combining: Barry read the textbook. The **textbook** is in his backpack.]

c) The house [**which** Collin McKinney was born in] **is** still standing.
   [combining: Colin McKinney was born in this house. The house is still standing.]

d) The town [**where** I grew up] **is** now a part of the Metroplex.
   [combining: **This** is the town where I **grew up.** It **is** now part of the Metroplex.]