



The Writing Center

Basic Sentence Patterns



Simple Sentence

S – V.

Brainsly studied for the exam.

Simple Sentence with a Compound Verb

S – V *and* V.

He reviewed the sentence card *and* **wrote** practice sentences.

Compound Sentence

S – V, *conjunction* S – V.

Brainsly studied, *but* **Slackersly fell** asleep.

S – V; *transition*, S – V.

Brainsly passed the exam; *however*, **Slackersly failed** it.

Complex Sentence

Subordinator S – V, S – V.

Because he had studied hard, **Brainsly aced** the exam.

S – V *subordinator* S – V.

Brainsly aced the exam because **he had studied** hard.

Compound-Complex Sentence

S – V, *conjunction* S – V *subordinator* S – V.

Brainsly wrote a rough draft, *and* *he went* to the tutoring center because he needed help.

Subordinator S – V, S – V, *conjunction* S – V.

Although he hadn't studied, *Slackersly* expected to pass, *but* *he was* wrong.

Conjunctions	Transitions	Subordinators
for	consequently	before
and	also	after
nor	nevertheless	because
but	therefore	although
or	in addition	when
yet	furthermore	while
so	however	as if
	on the other hand	if
	then	since
		until
		unless