Independent Clauses
An independent clause is basically a complete sentence; it can stand on its own. It consists of a subject (e.g. “The dog”) and a predicate (e.g. “barked”).
Ex: The dog barked.

Dependent Clauses
A dependent clause cannot stand alone, though they often contain both a subject and a verb. Where independent clauses express complete thoughts, dependent clauses do not, and left on their own, dependent clauses create fragments.
Ex: When the dog barked.
   So she asked.

Simple Sentences
A simple sentence consists of an independent clause on its own.
Ex: The dog barked.
   She asked him to leave.

Complex Sentences
Complex sentences combine independent (or main) and dependent (or subordinate) clauses.
Ex: When Katie’s dog barked, Robin yelped in surprise.

Compound Sentences
A compound sentence consists of two or more simple sentences or independent clauses.
Ex: Katie’s dog kept barking, so Sam asked her to take the dog outside.

Compound-Complex
Compound-complex sentences combine a compound with a complex sentence.
Ex: When Katie’s dog barked, Robin yelped, and Sam asked Katie to take the dog outside.