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.

Simple Sentences
A simple sentence consists of an independent clause on its own.

Ex: The dog barked.
She asked him to leave.

Independent Clauses

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.

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 him 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.