



The Ladysmith Writing Toolkit!

Types of sentence

- **Simple sentences**

(short sentences are not necessarily the weakest sentence type if used for effect. They only contain one main clause)

e.g.

I went home.

The creature crept through the dark forest.

- **Compound sentences**

(compound sentences are two or more simple sentences joined together by a conjunction.)

e.g.

I went home **and** I went straight to bed.

I looked everywhere **but** my homework had disappeared!

- **Complex sentences**

(complex sentences have a main clause and a subordinate clause (a part of a sentence which contains a verb but which doesn't make sense on it's own))

e.g.

Although Reuben had searched his entire bedroom, he couldn't find his home work anywhere.

Subordinate clause

main clause

Reuben's homework was eventually found **when his mum looked under his bed!**

Subordinate clause

main clause

The order of the clauses usually be swapped around.

When his mum looked under his bed, Reuben's homework was eventually found.

**The most effective writing contains a mix of all sentence types –
chosen for effect on the reader.**

Trembling with fear, the boy stood at the edge of the forest. Should he go on? He wanted to continue **but** his head was filled with doubt.