

There are four types of sentences: simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex.

1. **Simple sentences** have a single subject/verb combination. They are also known as independent clauses.

Blue **ants** *attack* with stinging and biting.

In this sentence, there is only one subject/verb combination: “**ants**” is the subject, and “*attack*” is the verb. Simple sentences may also have a compound subject and/or verb.

Blue **ants** daily *attack* and *destroy* three human settlements in rural areas of the West.

“**Ants**” is the subject, and “*attack*” and “*destroy*” are the verbs. A simple sentence can also have a compound subject.

Blue **ants** and their alien **friends** *threaten* the existence of our civilization.

A simple sentence can also have a compound subject and a compound verb.

Blue **ants** and their alien **friends** *threaten* and *attack* the existence of our civilization.

2. **Compound sentences** have more than one subject/verb combination. They are formed by connecting simple sentences with a comma and a coordinating conjunction (*for*, *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, *yet*, and *so*) or a semicolon.

**Reports** of blue ant attacks *have prompted* several emergency responses, but response **teams** *have not yet arrived* in time to rescue people in the settlements.

The two simple sentences are joined by a comma and the coordinating conjunction “but.” They could also be combined using a **semicolon** instead of the comma and coordinating conjunction.

3. **Complex sentences** are formed by joining a simple sentence with one or more dependent clauses. Dependent clauses are usually marked by words like *after*, *although*, *because*, *before*, *since*, *when*, *that*, and *while*. They cannot stand alone as sentences. The dependent clause below is underlined.

Because researchers are uncertain about the origin of these blue ants, some **doomsayers** *fear* the rise of other mega-pests.

4. **Compound-Complex sentences** are formed by connecting two or more independent clauses with one or more dependent clauses.

The **suggestion** that we consider other planets as potential new homes **has been taken** seriously by some, but few world **leaders** *consider* abandoning earth an option.