

The sentence

Types

No matter how many ideas it may contain, a sentence must always express a complete thought. There are three types of sentence: *simple*, *compound*, and *complex*.

The *Simple Sentence* expresses one idea only. It has one subject and one predicate. Example:

The man (subject) knocked at the door (predicate).

The *Compound Sentence* contains more than one idea. In this type of sentence all the ideas expressed have an equal value. Example:

The man knocked at the door and waited for an answer.

The *Complex Sentence* contains one main idea (called the 'main clause') and one or more secondary ideas (called 'subordinate clauses'). Example:

As soon as he arrived at the house (subordinate clause) the man knocked at the door (main clause).

Joining sentences

The words which are used to combine sentences are called 'conjunctions'. In the exercises that follow you will practise some of the main ways in which different ideas can be joined to make complete sentences.

COMPOUND SENTENCES The main conjunctions used to form compound sentences are: *and*, *but*, *yet*, *so*, *both ... and*, *either ... or*, *neither ... nor*, *not only ... but*.

Complete the following sentences by choosing one of the two words given in brackets.

- (a) (And, Both) my wife and I went out early yesterday.
- (b) (Or, Either) we will have to wait for them, or we will have to leave a message.
- (c) He neither took my advice (nor, or) his father's.