

Sentence Variety

Using three basic structures, Simple, Compound, and Complex, can improve content and style. Sentence variety can also keep the reader's interest.

Simple Sentences are the basic sentences with a subject and verb that expresses a complete thought. This is also known as an independent clause. For example,

- Each EU country has its own difficulties.
- The European Commission is the main source of power.
- It will convert the environmental plan before 2011.

Even the simple sentence pattern can vary by moving adverb phrases or adding descriptive phrases.

For example,

- Before 2011, it will convert the environmental plan.
- Despite working together, each EU country has its own difficulties.

Compound Sentences contain two independent clauses joined by a coordinator (usually preceded by a comma). Coordinators include *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so*. Using a coordinator allows the writer to show the relationship between the ideas. For example,

- The European Commission is the main source of power, so it will convert the environmental plan.
- The European Commission is the main source of power, so it will convert the environmental plan.

Complex Sentences combine simple sentences using subordinators like *because, since, if, after, although, or when*. The subordinator transforms the simple sentence into a dependent clause whose idea is subordinate to the independent clause. For example,

- When citizens view the European guidelines as unnecessary, the guidelines will not be ratified.
- When citizens view the European guidelines as unnecessary, the guidelines will not be ratified.
- The guidelines will not be ratified when citizens view the European guidelines as unnecessary.

Using different sentence structures avoids monotony and “Dick and Jane” style. Using coordinators and subordinators allows the writer to communicate the relationships among ideas, thus saying more. See, for example, the following paragraph:

The European Commission is the main source of power, so it will convert the environmental plan into legally binding directives. The plan itself has customized goals for each country that specifically address the countries abilities. However, each member has its own difficulties. States with proportional representation will find it easier to implement policies than majoritarian systems. The only problem with implementation that Schmidt can see is that of communication. European politicians, the ones that created the environmental plan, often fail to explain legislation to their constituents. When citizens view the European guidelines as unnecessary, the guidelines will not be ratified.