

AET-127 Writing Skills & Vocabulary – Week 2

Sentence Patterns • Punctuation • Mechanics of Effective Sentences

Reference: Blass & Gordon (2010). *Writers at Work: From Sentence to Paragraph*, Ch. 1 “All About Me” (pp. 17–21)

PART 1 – From Simple to Compound and Complex Sentences

1.1 Core Sentence Structure

Every English sentence needs a **subject** and a **verb**.

But at university level, we don't stop at simple S–V–O patterns. We combine clauses to make richer meanings.

Element	Description	Example
Independent clause	Can stand alone as a sentence	<i>I am from Türkiye.</i>
Dependent clause	Cannot stand alone; adds information	<i>...because I love languages.</i>
Phrase	Group of words without full subject + verb	<i>In Mersin</i>

1.2 Types of Sentences

Type	Structure	Example	Notes
Simple	One independent clause	<i>I'm Turkish.</i>	Short, direct
Compound	Two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)	<i>I'm Turkish, and I study translation.</i>	Balanced ideas
Complex	One independent clause + one or more dependent clauses (with subordinators like because, although, when, if, since)	<i>I study translation because I enjoy languages.</i>	Shows relationships
Compound-Complex	At least two independent clauses + one or more dependent clauses	<i>I'm from Türkiye, and I study translation because I enjoy languages.</i>	Advanced style

1.3 Why This Matters for Translators

- **Simple sentences** = clarity but can sound childlike if overused.
- **Compound/complex sentences** = richer, more academic style.
- **Run-on sentences** = errors that confuse readers.

PART 2 – The Verb *Be* as a Linker

Subject	Be + Complement	Example	Advanced Note
I	am a student	<i>I am a translation student.</i>	Subject + Be + Noun
She	is interested in music	<i>She is interested in Brazilian music.</i>	Subject + Be + Adj./Prep. Phrase
We	are from Türkiye	<i>We are from Türkiye and live in Mersin.</i>	Add connectors for style

Practice 1 – Identify the Sentence Type

For each, label it Simple (S), Compound (CD), Complex (CX), or Compound-Complex (CD-CX):

1. I'm from Mexico, and I speak Spanish at home.
2. Because I enjoy languages, I study translation.
3. My teacher is from England, but she lives in Türkiye now because she loves the climate.

PART 3 – Nationality Words and Descriptive Adjectives

Nationality adjectives describe origin and often double as language names.

Country	Nationality	Example Sentence
Türkiye	Turkish	<i>I'm Turkish, and I speak Turkish and English.</i>
Japan	Japanese	<i>She's Japanese but lives in Mersin.</i>
Mexico	Mexican	<i>He's Mexican although he travels often.</i>

Practice 2 – Write Compound or Complex Sentences

Using the prompts, create longer sentences:

1. (I / from Türkiye / study translation / because I love languages)
2. (She / Mexican / lives in Ankara / but still visits Mexico often)
3. (They / Japanese / speak English / although it's difficult for them)

PART 4 – Connecting Ideas Logically

4.1 Coordinating Conjunctions (Compound Sentences)

Conjunction	Meaning	Example
for	because	<i>I stayed home, for it was raining.</i>
and	in addition	<i>I'm Turkish, and I study English.</i>
nor	not either	<i>He doesn't eat meat, nor does he drink milk.</i>
but	contrast	<i>She's from England, but she lives in Türkiye.</i>
or	choice	<i>You can study now, or you can study later.</i>
yet	still/contrast	<i>It's small, yet it's beautiful.</i>
so	result	<i>I was tired, so I went to bed early.</i>

4.2 Subordinating Conjunctions (Complex Sentences)

Subordinator	Example
because	<i>I study translation because I enjoy languages.</i>
although / even though	<i>Although it's raining, I'm going out.</i>
when / while	<i>I listen to music while I work.</i>
since	<i>Since I arrived, I've been busy.</i>
if / unless	<i>If it rains, we'll stay inside.</i>

Practice 3 – Combine Ideas Using Different Conjunctions

Turn these into one sentence each:

1. I'm Turkish. I live in Mersin. I'm learning English.
2. She's from Japan. She's studying translation. She loves Turkish food.
3. We are students. We're interested in sports. We want to travel.

PART 5 – Mechanics: Capitalization, Punctuation, and Run-On Sentences

5.1 Capitalization Rules

Capitalize...	Example
First word of every sentence	<i>My name is Ayşe.</i>
The pronoun "I"	<i>I am a student.</i>
Names, nationalities, languages	<i>He speaks Turkish and English.</i>
Titles, proper nouns	<i>Professor Smith teaches Translation.</i>

5.2 Punctuation Rules for Compound and Complex Sentences

Construction	Rule	Example
Compound with coordinating conjunction	Use a comma before the conjunction	<i>I'm from Türkiye, and I live in Mersin.</i>
Complex with subordinator at the beginning	Use a comma after the dependent clause	<i>Because I love languages, I study translation.</i>
Complex with subordinator at the end	No comma before the subordinator	<i>I study translation because I love languages.</i>

5.3 Run-On Sentences Explained

A **run-on sentence** occurs when two or more independent clauses are joined **without proper punctuation or connectors**.

Type	Incorrect Example	Corrected Example
Fused sentence	<i>I'm from Turkey I study translation.</i>	<i>I'm from Turkey. I study translation.</i>
Comma splice	<i>I'm from Turkey, I study translation.</i>	<i>I'm from Turkey, and I study translation. or I'm from Turkey; I study translation.</i>

How to Fix a Run-On Sentence:

1. **Add a period:** *I'm from Turkey. I study translation.*
2. **Use a coordinating conjunction with a comma:** *I'm from Turkey, and I study translation.*
3. **Use a semicolon:** *I'm from Turkey; I study translation.*

Practice 4 – Correct the Run-On Sentences

Rewrite correctly:

1. *I'm Turkish I study translation.*
2. *She's from Japan she loves Turkish food.*
3. *We are students we want to travel we study hard.*

PART 6 – Production Task

Write an Enhanced Paragraph: “All About Me”

- 8–10 sentences
- At least **one compound** and **one complex** sentence
- Include **one example of a corrected run-on**
- Use **nationality words**
- Use **and / because / although / but**

Example (Model Paragraph)

My name is Leyla, and I’m from Türkiye. I’m a first-year translation student at Çağ University. I study English and Spanish because I want to become an interpreter. Although I work part time, I spend most of my evenings reading and practicing languages. I’m interested in music, and I play both piano and guitar. My friends are from different countries, and we often share our cultures. Sometimes I make run-on sentences in English; however, I’m learning to fix them. I’m proud to be Turkish, and I’m excited to travel abroad next year.