Different sentence structures include *simple*, *compound*, *complex*, and *compound-complex* structures. Writers should vary their sentence structures, creating flowing, readable prose.

Too many simple sentences can create choppy prose, and too many compound-complex sentences can create overcomplicated prose.

**SIMPLE SENTENCES**

- **Character** → **Action** → **Simple Sentence**

The *professor taught.*

You can create pauses and emphasize important concepts through these sentences.

**COMPOUND SENTENCES**

- **Character** → **Action** → **Coordinating Conjunction** → **Character** → **Action** → **Compound Sentence**

The *professor taught, and Cathy took* notes.

You can use these sentences to convey two related thoughts in the same sentence.

**COMPLEX SENTENCES**

- **Character** → **Action** → **Subordinating Conjunction** → **Character** → **Action** → **Complex Sentence**

*Cathy took* notes *while* the *professor taught.*

You can use these sentences to show how one part of your sentence directly relates to another part.
While the professor taught, Cathy took notes, and Stephen recorded the lecture.

You can use these sentences to explain complex concepts.