

## Lesson 24

# Simple and Compound Sentences

A **simple sentence** has one complete subject and one complete predicate. The subject, the predicate, or both may be compound.

**SUBJECT**  
Most dogs  
They

**PREDICATE**  
are pets  
provide pleasure and companionship.  
(compound predicate)

Seeing Eye® dogs and other assistance dogs (compound subject) give the gift of independence.

Two or more simple sentences, each considered a main clause, may be combined to form a **compound sentence**. Main clauses can be joined to build a compound sentence by using a comma followed by a conjunction, such as *or*, *and*, or *but*. However, a conjunction is not necessary to form a compound sentence. A semicolon may be used to join two main clauses without a conjunction. A semicolon is also used before a conjunctive adverb, such as *however*.

Laura can't hear the alarm clock, **and** her dog wakes her.  
 Laura can't hear the alarm clock; her dog wakes her.  
 Laura can't hear the alarm clock; **however**, her dog wakes her.

► **Exercise 1** Write in the blank whether the sentence is *simple* or *compound*.

compound

Assistance dogs offer disabled people companionship, but they also play a more important role.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A trained dog's help could make independent living possible for a disabled person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Someone in a wheelchair can't reach a light switch, and a deaf person can't hear a smoke alarm.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Dogs can help in many everyday situations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Labrador retrievers open refrigerators, and Border collies nudge people awake.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Assistance dogs push elevator buttons and pick up telephones.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. An assistance dog performs many duties, and these duties could change from one day to the next.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Some dogs go to work or school, and others help with child care or housework.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. One dog might signal the whistle of a teakettle or the beep of a microwave oven.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Assistance dogs serve as eyes, ears, legs, or arms; they empower those they help.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Many breeds become assistance dogs, but a few seem particularly well suited to the role.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, Welsh corgis, and Border collies generally respond well to training.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. These dogs are eager to please; praise and affection are their primary rewards.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Assistance dogs face unfamiliar situations daily; thus, the single most important job qualification is a calm disposition.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. A dog might have to navigate a crowded bus or a noisy restaurant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Assistance dogs regularly encounter strangers; therefore, they should not be apprehensive.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Nervous and excitable dogs might become frightened, and their unexpected moves could prove dangerous.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Assistance dogs play another important role, and that is the part of social ice-breaker.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Disabled people sometimes feel “invisible,” but dogs make them very hard to ignore.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Children especially are attracted to dogs; thus, assistance dogs are often included in disability awareness programs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. The position of teacher can be added to the assistance dogs’ long list of jobs.

► **Exercise 2** Underline each main clause. If there is more than one main clause in a sentence, add a comma or a semicolon as needed.

Time was flying by, and the day of the wedding was fast approaching.

1. Both of the sofas arrived but neither fit through the doorway.
2. Green is Angie’s favorite color but her new coat is blue.
3. This is a great car and it gets good gas mileage.
4. The first game will be this Thursday at five.
5. I like skiing and Maria likes skating.
6. We don’t order dessert when we eat out.
7. Martin expected bad weather therefore, he brought an umbrella.
8. This quilt might look old but my grandmother made it last year.
9. I’ll call you when I get home from work.
10. We will sell tickets tomorrow or you may buy them at the door.