

# SYNTAX OF NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

## TYPES OF CLAUSES

- Independent
  - A complete sentence
  - Simplified: Main Idea
- Dependent
  - Not a complete sentence
  - Simplified: Detail

Examples: Independent Clause is underlined

- A woman stood on the edge of a cliff.
- On the edge of the cliff, a woman stood.

## TYPES OF SENTENCES

**PERIODIC SENTENCE:** Dependent Clause(s) + Independent Clause

Simplified 1: Detail + Main Idea

Simplified 2: Main [Detail] Idea

### EXAMPLES OF SIMPLIFIED 1: DETAIL + MAIN IDEA:

- In spite of heavy snow and cold temperatures, the game continued.
- Whether it was peer pressure or her own idea, Mary tried out for the glee club and made it.
- Because they are independent, take care of themselves, and purr, I prefer cats over dogs.
- "In the almost incredibly brief time which it took the small but sturdy porter to roll a milk-can across the platform and bump it, with a clang, against other milk-cans similarly treated a moment before, Ashe fell in love." (P.G. Wodehouse, *Something Fresh*)
- "In the loveliest town of all, where the houses were white and high and the elms trees were green and higher than the houses, where the front yards were wide and pleasant and the back yards were bushy and worth finding out about, where the streets sloped down to the stream and the stream flowed quietly under the bridge, where the lawns ended in orchards and the orchards ended in fields and the fields ended in pastures and the pastures climbed the hill and disappeared over the top toward the wonderful wide sky, in this loveliest of all towns Stuart stopped to get a drink of sarsaparilla." (E.B. White, *Stuart Little*)

### EXAMPLES OF SIMPLIFIED 2: MAIN [DETAIL] IDEA:

- The beach, with white sand, crystal clear water, and palm trees, is a favorite hangout for the locals.
- Proper maintenance, like checking tire pressure and changing the oil, will ensure the best gas mileage for your car.
- The gazelle, peacefully drinking and unaware of any danger, was soon the target of the lioness.
- Spring, with new buds popping out, flowers blooming, and mild temperatures, is my favorite season.

## **LOOSE/CUMULATIVE SENTENCE:** Independent Clause(s) + Dependent Clause

Simplified: Main Idea + Detail

### **EXAMPLES:**

- He might consider paying the higher fees at a private university, if the teacher to student ratio is small, the teachers are highly qualified, and the job placement rate is high.
- He decided to major in science, even though he really wanted to study art and philosophy.
- John made some great discoveries on his archaeological dig, including a piece of pottery and clay tablets.
- He was offered a sponsorship after winning three gold medals at the Olympics and breaking the record for backstroke.
- I spotted a flock of geese flying overhead, honking and making their way to the lake.
- "He dipped his hands in the bichloride solution and shook them--a quick shake, fingers down, like the fingers of a pianist above the keys." (Sinclair Lewis, *Arrowsmith*)
- "The San Bernardino Valley lies only an hour east of Los Angeles by the San Bernardino Freeway but is in certain ways an alien place: not the coastal California of the subtropical twilights and the soft westerlies off the Pacific but a harsher California, haunted by the Mojave just beyond the mountains, devastated by the hot dry Santa Ana wind that comes down through the passes at 100 miles an hour and whines through the eucalyptus windbreaks and works on the nerves." (Joan Didion, "Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream")
- "I am with the Eskimos on the tundra who are running after the click-footed caribou, running sleepless and dazed for days, running spread out in scraggling lines across the glacier-ground hummocks and reindeer moss, in sight of the ocean, under the long-shadowed pale sun, running silent all night long." (Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*)

## **PERIODIC + CUMULATIVE MASHUP**

Simplified: Main [Detail] Idea + Detail

### **EXAMPLES FROM THE SCARLET LETTER:**

"A throng of bearded men, in sad-coloured garments and grey steeple-crowned hats, inter-mixed with women, some wearing hoods, and others bareheaded, was assembled in front of a wooden edifice, the door of which was heavily timbered with oak, and studded with iron spikes" (41).

"This rose-bush, by a strange chance, has been kept alive in history; but whether it had merely survived out of the stern old wilderness, so long after the fall of the gigantic pines and oaks that originally overshadowed it, or whether, as there is far authority for believing, it had sprung up under the footsteps of the sainted Ann Hutchinson as she entered the prison-door, we shall not take upon us to determine" (42).

"The grass-plot before the jail, in Prison Lane, on a certain summer morning, not less than two centuries ago, was occupied by a pretty large number of the inhabitants of Boston, all with their eyes intently fastened on the iron-clamped oaken door" (43).