

Simple –

One main idea/clause. Must contain a noun and a verb.

The cat sat on the mat.

Compound –

Two main ideas/clauses. Both can stand alone. Usually joined by 'and'/'or'/'but'.

The cat sat on the mat and the dog sat in front of the fire.

Complex –

At least two clauses. One main (*can stand alone*) and one subordinate (*doesn't make sense alone*)

The cat sat on the mat because it was tired.