Grammar – Clauses

Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences – Info Page

In general there are three types of sentence in English: **simple** *sentences,* **compound** *sentences, and* **complex** *sentences.*
We should use a mix of sentence types to keep our reader interested.

Sentence Type:	Example:	Clause Type:	Made with:	More Info:
simple	I work in Bristol.	independent *(main)* *(a complete thought)*	subject + predicate *(verb + phrase)*	*Can be:* - statement - question - imperative - exclamation
compound	I work in Bristol and play football every week.	independent + independent	coordinating conjunctions *(balancing)*	FANBOYS: *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*
complex	I work in Bristol although I live in Swindon.	independent + dependent *(not a complete thought)*	A) subordinating conjunctions *(reducing importance)*	50+ words, e.g. *after, although, because, before, if, provided that, since, unless, until, whenever,*
	I work in Bristol which is a large city in the west of England. Bristol, where I work, is a large city in the west of England.		B) relative pronouns: - *defining relative clause* - *non-defining relative clause*	*which, that, who, whom, whose when, where, why*
	I live in Swindon to be close to my parents.		C) to + infinitive	
	I work in Bristol creating marketing material for companies.		D) gerund	

Use a comma:

- COMPOUND SENTENCES: *before a conjunction (unless it is a very short sentence)*   *I bought a new dishwasher, but it doesn't work.*
- COMPLEX SENTENCES: *after a dependent clause, if it comes first*   *After I bought the dishwasher, I realised it didn't work.*
    before and after a non-defining relative clause   *The dishwasher, which doesn't work, went back to the shop.*