**Sentence Structure**

**Loose Sentence:** (also called a cumulative **sentence**) is a type of **sentence** in which the main idea (independent clause) is elaborated by the successive addition of modifying clauses or phrases.

**Periodic Sentence:** has the main clause or predicate at the end. This is used for emphasis and can be persuasive by putting reasons for something at the beginning before the final point is made. It can also create suspense or interest for the reader.

**7 Patterns of Sentence Structure**

Sentence structure can be categorized into seven patterns: one simple, three compound, two complex, and one compound-complex. Here are examples of each pattern with accompanying formulas, all to help you think of how to craft sentences in a greater variety of syntax:

IC=independent clause CC=coordinating conjunct S=semicolon

AC=adverbial conjunct DM=dependent marker C=clause

RP=relative pronoun DC=dependent clause

1. **Simple sentence** (independent clause): “I went for a walk.”

(An independent clause is set of words that includes a subject and a predicate. It can be a sentence or part of one. A dependent, or subordinate, clause is one that cannot stand on its own but provides additional information to supplement an independent clause.)

2.**Compound sentence, IC+CC+IC** (independent clause plus **coordinating conjunction** plus independent clause): “I went for a walk, and I was soothed by the gentle night air.”

(Coordinating conjunctions are words that link one independent clause to another to form a compound sentence. These words can be recalled with the mnemonic **FANBOYS** and include *for*, *and*, *nor*, *but*, *or*, *yet*, and *so*.)

3. **Compound sentence, IC+S+IC** (independent clause plus **semicolon** plus independent clause): “I went for a walk; I was soothed by the gentle night air.”

4. **Compound sentence, IC+AC+IC**(independent clause plus adverbial conjunction plus independent clause): “I went for a walk; consequently, I was soothed by the gentle night air.”

(Adverbial conjunctions are adverbs that serve, when following a semicolon, to link independent clauses. They include *consequently*, *however*, *moreover*, *nevertheless*, *therefore*, and *thus*.)

5. **Complex sentence, DM+C+IC** (dependent marker plus clause plus independent clause): “Because I hoped to be soothed by the gentle night air, I went for a walk.”

(Dependent markers are words that provide a relative context for a subordinate clause. They include *after*,*although*, *as*, “as if,” *because*, *before*, *if*, *since*, *though*, *until*, *when*, *where*, *whether*, and *while*.)

6. **Complex sentence, RP+C** (relative pronoun plus clause): “Whatever doubts I had about taking a walk dissipated when I was soothed by the gentle night air.”

(Relative pronouns are pronouns that relate a subordinate clause to the noun it modifies. They include*who*, *whom*, *whose*, *whoever*, *whosoever*, *whomever*, *which*, *what*, *whatever*, and sometimes *that*.)

7. **Compound-complex sentence, DC+IC+CC+IC**(dependent clause plus independent clause plus coordinating conjunction plus independent clause): “As I headed out for a walk, my doubts about doing so dissipated, and I was soothed by the gentle night air.”

There are, of course, many variations to these patterns; even a simple sentence, for instance, can begin with the object in the example converted to the subject of another simple sentence: “A walk was my next order of business.”