Simple, Compound, & Complex Sentences

We can improve our writing by learning about different sentence structures.

A **SIMPLE SENTENCE** contains an independent clause, also called main clause, that stands alone.

A **COMPOUND SENTENCE** contains two independent clauses joined with a coordinating conjunction and a comma. A compound sentence may also be joined with a semicolon.

A **COMPLEX SENTENCE** contains an independent clause plus one or more dependent clauses.

Read each sentence below. If it is a complex sentence, write **CX** in the blank. If it is a compound sentence, write **CD** in the blank. If it is a simple sentence, write **S** in the blank.

__________ 1. Morgan and Riley plan to enter their robot in an engineering competition.

__________ 2. If they place first, they might win five hundred dollars.

__________ 7. They named their robot Rowdy and painted it gold.

__________ 8. When the competition is over, Rowdy will be kept in Mr. Blake’s science class.

__________ 9. Mr. Blake is in charge of the engineering club.

__________ 10. Morgan and Riley are already planning to build a drawbridge for next year’s competition.

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1. Morgan and Riley plan to enter their robot in an engineering competition. **S**
2. If they place first, they might win five hundred dollars. **CX**
3. The second place prize is three hundred dollars, and the third place prize is one hundred dollars. **CD**
4. Their robot can follow a simple path through a maze. **S**
5. The robot can also sort objects, but it cannot count. **CX**
6. Morgan and Riley cannot wait until it is time for the competition. **S**
7. They named their robot Rowdy and painted it gold. **CX**
8. When the competition is over, Rowdy will be kept in Mr. Blake's science class. **S**
9. Mr. Blake is in charge of the engineering club. **S**
10. Morgan and Riley are already planning to build a drawbridge for next year's competition. **S**