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 semi-colon.

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.  
   **S**

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

3. The second place prize is three hundred dollars, and the third place prize is one hundred dollars.  
   **CX**

4. Their robot can follow a simple path through a maze.  
   **S**

5. The robot can also sort objects, but it cannot count.  
   **CD**

6. Morgan and Riley cannot wait until it is time for the competition.  
   **S**

7. They named their robot Rowdy, and painted it gold.  
   **CD**

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.  
   **CD**

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