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.
2. _______ If they place first, they might win five hundred dollars.
3. _______ The second place prize is three hundred dollars, and the third place prize is one hundred dollars.
4. _______ Their robot can follow a simple path through a maze.
5. _______ The robot can also sort objects, but it cannot count.
6. _______ Morgan and Riley cannot wait until it is time for the competition.
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. S  Morgan and Riley plan to enter their robot in an engineering competition.

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

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

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

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

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