**Identifying the Four Basic Sentence Structures**  
There are four basic sentence structures in English:

i. A [*simple sentence*](http://grammar.about.com/od/rs/g/simpsenterm.htm) is a sentence with just one [independent clause](http://grammar.about.com/od/il/g/independterm.htm) (also called a main clause): *Judy laughed.*  
ii. A [*compound sentence*](http://grammar.about.com/od/c/g/compoundsent.htm) contains at least two independent clauses: *Judy laughed and Jimmy cried*.   
iii. A [*complex sentence*](http://grammar.about.com/od/c/g/complexsentence.htm) contains an independent clause and at least one [dependent clause](http://grammar.about.com/od/d/g/dependclterm.htm): *Jimmy cried when Judy laughed.*   
iv. A [*compound-complex sentence*](http://grammar.about.com/od/c/g/comcomplexterm.htm) contains two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause: *Judy laughed and Jimmy cried when the clowns ran past their seats*.

**Instructions:**  
The sentences in this exercise have been adapted from poems in two books by Shel Silverstein: *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (HarperCollins, 1974) and *Falling Up*(HarperCollins, 1996).

1. Identify each of the following sentences as *simple, compound, complex*, or *compound-complex*.
2. For each sentence, label the clauses IC for independent clause; DC for dependent clause.
3. I made an airplane out of stone.  
   ("Stone Airplane")
4. I put a piece of cantaloupe underneath the microscope.  
   ("Nope")
5. Oaties stay oaty, and Wheat Chex stay floaty, and nothing can take the puff out of Puffed Rice.  
   ("Cereal")
6. While fishing in the blue lagoon, I caught a lovely silver fish.  
   ("The Silver Fish")
7. They say if you step on a crack, you will break your mother's back.  
   ("Sidewalking")
8. They just had a contest for scariest mask, and I was the wild and daring one who *won* the contest for scariest mask--and (sob) I'm not even *wearing* one.  
   ("Best Mask?")
9. My voice was raspy, rough, and cracked.  
   ("Little Hoarse")
10. I opened my eyes and looked up at the rain, and it dripped in my head and flowed into my brain.  
    ("Rain")
11. They say that once in Zanzibar a boy stuck out his tongue so far that it reached the heavens and touched a star, which burned him rather badly.  
    ("The Tongue Sticker-Outer")
12. I'm going to Camp Wonderful beside Lake Paradise across from Blissful Mountain in the Valley of the Nice.  
    ("Camp Wonderful")
13. I joke with the bats and have intimate chats with the cooties who crawl through my hair.  
    ("The Dirtiest Man in the World")
14. The animals snarled and screeched and growled and whinnied and whimpered and hooted and howled and gobbled up the whole ice cream stand.  
    ("Ice Cream Stop")
15. The antlers of a standing moose, as everybody knows, are just the perfect place to hang your wet and drippy clothes.  
    ("A Use for a Moose")
16. We'll walk with a walk that is measured and slow, and we'll go where the chalk-white arrows go.  
    ("Where the Sidewalk Ends")
17. If I had a brontosaurus, I would name him Horace or Morris.  
    ("If I Had a Brontosaurus")
18. I am writing these poems from inside a lion, and it's rather dark in here.  
    ("It's Dark in Here")
19. A piece of sky broke off and fell through the crack in the ceiling right into my soup.  
    ("Sky Seasoning")
20. The grungy, grumpy, grouchy Giant grew tired of his frowny pout and hired me and Lee to lift the corners of his crumblin' mouth.  
    ("The Smile Makers")
21. If you were only one inch tall, you'd ride a worm to school.  
    ("One Inch Tall")
22. The traffic light simply would not turn green, so the people stopped to wait as the traffic rolled and the wind blew cold, and the hour grew dark and late.  
    ("Traffic Light")