

# BASIC SENTENCE STRUCTURE

## FIVE PARTS OF A SENTENCE:

1. Complete thought
2. Subject
3. Verb / Predicate
4. Capital letter
5. Ending punctuation

## FOUR BASIC SENTENCE PATTERNS:

1. **Simple** (one independent clause\*)
2. **Compound** (more than one independent clause\*)
3. **Complex** (one independent clause and at least one dependent clause\*\*)
4. **Compound-Complex** (more than one independent clause and at least one dependent clause\*\*)

**\*Independent Clause:** could stand alone as a complete sentence

**Dependent Clause:** cannot stand alone as a complete sentence

## COMPOUNDING SENTENCE ELEMENTS:

**Subjects:** President Jefferson and Meriwether Lewis together convinced Congress to raise money for the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

**Objects:** President Jefferson believed that the headwaters of the Missouri River might reach all the way to the Canadian border and that he could claim all that land for the United States.

**Verbs:** He studied the biological and natural sciences and learned how to categorize and draw animals accurately.

**Modifiers:** Lewis and Clark recruited their adventurers from river-town bars and various military outposts.