Types of sentences

There are three main types of sentence.

- A simple sentence.
- A compound sentence.
- A complex sentence.
Simple sentence – one action. It contains a subject (the person or thing doing the action) and a verb (a doing word).

The cat pounced.

The mouse ran away.
Compound sentence – usually more than one action going on. Two simple sentences, joined by “and” or “but”.

The cat pounced but the mouse ran away.
Types of sentences

Complex sentence – a simple sentence plus a **subordinate** clause which adds information to the sentence. The clause cannot stand on its own as a sentence.

Although the cat pounced, the mouse ran away.
Types of sentences

**Sentence**
This is the house
This is the malt
This is the rat
This is the cat

**Clause**
that Jack built.
that lay in the house that Jack built.
that ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack built.
that chased the rat that ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack built.
Does this make sense?

"that Jack built."

It’s a **clause**, so it can’t stand on its own.

It has no **main** verb.

(The verb ‘built’ is secondary in this sentence.)
The word ‘that’ tells us that a subordinate clause is on its way, and must be supported by the main part of the sentence – “This is the house.”

“This is the house.”

What is the main verb here?
Look at the book you are reading at the moment, and identify:

3 simple sentences.
2 compound sentences.
1 complex sentence.

In each case, show the main verb(s).