

# The Future Tense

Use the **future tense** for things that have not happened yet, but are going to happen.

Use the verbs **shall** and **will** as **helping verbs** or **auxiliary verbs** to form the future tense.



They **will finish** the job next week.



I **shall be** eight years old next year.



The weatherman says it **will rain** this afternoon.

We **shall play** a game of chess after lunch.

You **will be** sick if you eat too much.

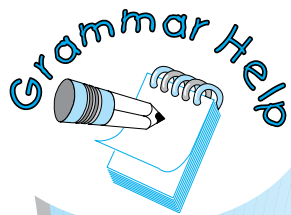
I hope it **won't rain** tomorrow.

Sharon is ill. She **will not be** at the party.

You **will enjoy** visiting New Zealand.

Dad **will be** back for dinner.

He **will make** lots of friends at his new school.



Use **shall** or **will** with **I** and **we**.

Use **will** with **you, he, she, it** and **they**.

Here is a table to help you remember the rules:

	Singular	Plural
<b>First person</b>	I shall I will	we shall we will
<b>Second person</b>	you will	you will
<b>Third person</b>	he will she will it will	they will they will they will

Learn these contractions:

I shall = I'll

I will = I'll

you will = you'll

he will = he'll

she will = she'll

it will = it'll

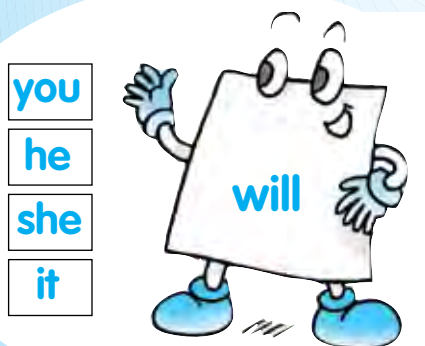
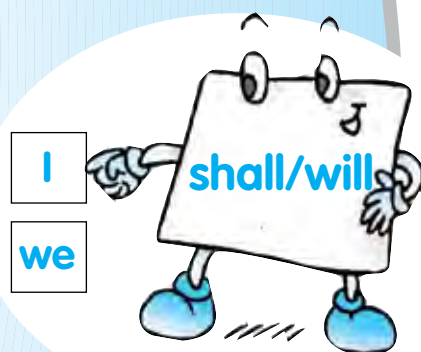
we shall = we'll

we will = we'll

they will = they'll

shall not = shan't

will not = won't



There are other ways of talking about future actions and happenings.

You can use **going to**.



I think I'm **going to be** sick.

We **are going to bake** a cake this afternoon.

I'm sure Mom and Dad **are going to be** proud of me.

When **are you going to clean** your room?

They **are going to wash** the car for Dad.

It **is going to get** dark very soon.

You can also use the **simple present tense** to talk about things that have been arranged for the future.

The new supermarket **opens** tomorrow.

James **moves** to the second grade next year.

The new school year **starts** on Monday.

Next month I **go** to summer camp.

We **have** a history test next week.

The bus **leaves** in ten minutes.



## Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct *future tense* of the verbs in brackets, using *shall* or *will*.

- 1 You \_\_\_\_\_ fat if you eat too many desserts. (grow)
- 2 The new school building \_\_\_\_\_ ready soon. (be)
- 3 We \_\_\_\_\_ to the zoo after breakfast. (go)
- 4 I \_\_\_\_\_ my bath before dinner. (take)
- 5 Peter \_\_\_\_\_ lots to do on his grandmother's farm. (find)
- 6 If we ask her, she \_\_\_\_\_ us how to play chess. (teach)
- 7 If he works hard, he \_\_\_\_\_ his exams. (pass)
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ home now? (go)

## Exercise 2

Complete these sentences by changing *shall* or *will* to the appropriate form of the verb *be* + *going to* (i.e., *am*, *is*, or *are* + *going to*).

- 1 They will be busy tomorrow.  
They \_\_\_\_\_ be busy tomorrow.
- 2 I hope I will be ready on time.  
I hope I \_\_\_\_\_ be ready on time.
- 3 We shall visit James this evening.  
We \_\_\_\_\_ visit James this evening.
- 4 It will rain soon.  
It \_\_\_\_\_ rain soon.
- 5 Dad will take us to the movies tomorrow.  
Dad \_\_\_\_\_ take us to the movies tomorrow.

# Can and Could

The verbs **can** and **could** are both **helping** or **auxiliary verbs**. Use **can** and **could** to talk about people's **ability** to do things.

**Can** and **could** are used with the pronouns **I, you, he, she, it, we** and **they**, and with **singular** or **plural nouns**.

**Could** is the past tense of **can**.



Jack ran as far as he **could**.



Some birds **cannot** fly.

He **can** run faster than Arthur.

She **cannot** afford such an expensive ring.

I'm full. I **can't** eat any more.

**Can** you help me?

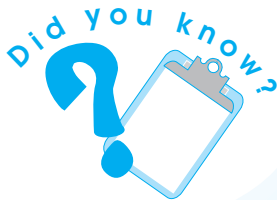
**Can** I come with you?

I knew you **could** do it if you tried.

She **could not** come because she was ill.

Miss Lee said we **could** go home early.

All the King's men **could not** put Humpty Dumpty together again.



People often use **can** when they are asking for permission to do something. For example:

**Can** I use your pen? Yes, here it is.

When you put **not** after **can**, you write it as one word: **cannot**

Learn these contractions: cannot = can't  
could not = couldn't



# May and Might

**May** and **might** are **helping** or **auxiliary verbs**, too.

- ▶ Use **may** to ask if you are allowed to do something, or to give someone permission to do something.



**May** I watch television now?  
Yes, you **may**.

**May** I **borrow** your pen?  
You **may come** in.  
You **may go** now.

- ▶ **May** is also used to talk about things that are likely to happen.



Take an umbrella. It **may rain**.

If it continues to rain, there **may be** a flood.

I **may go** to Sue's birthday party if I'm free.

You **may fall** down if you aren't careful.

- ▶ **Might** is used as the past tense of **may**.

He realized he **might catch** the earlier train if he hurried.  
I knew my teacher **might find** out.



You can also use **might** to talk about things that are possible. For example:

Put your purse away or it **might get** stolen.  
You **might slip**, so hold on to the railing.

## Exercise

Fill in the blanks with *can*, *could*, *may* or *might*.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ you jump over the hurdle?
- 2 We ran as fast as we \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Some people \_\_\_\_\_ speak three languages.
- 4 Jean \_\_\_\_\_ dance quite well.
- 5 The man is shouting. He \_\_\_\_\_ need help.
- 6 If you hurry you \_\_\_\_\_ catch the train.
- 7 Dave doesn't look well. He \_\_\_\_\_ have a fever.
- 8 The baby is crying. She \_\_\_\_\_ be hungry.
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ I borrow your bike?
- 10 I don't know where Jane is. You \_\_\_\_\_ find her in the library.
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ you drive?
- 12 Who \_\_\_\_\_ answer the question?
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ you show me the way to the zoo?
- 14 He \_\_\_\_\_ play the piano.

# Do, Does and Did

Use **do**, **does** and **did** to talk about actions.

Use **do** with the pronouns **I**, **you**, **we** and **they**, and with **plural nouns**. Use **does** with the pronouns **he**, **she** and **it**, and **singular nouns**.

**Did** is the **simple past tense** of **do** and **does**.



Dad **does**  
the dishes.



Mom **does**  
the cooking.



We always  
**do** exercise together.

He **does** such interesting work.  
They **do** amazing tricks.



Who **did** this drawing?  
Henry did.

Sally **did** her hair in front  
of the mirror.

They **did** the dusting and  
cleaning.

Jane **did** all the laundry  
by herself.

You **did** well in the test.

I **did** poorly on my exam.



- Here's a table to remind you about the use of **do** and **does**:

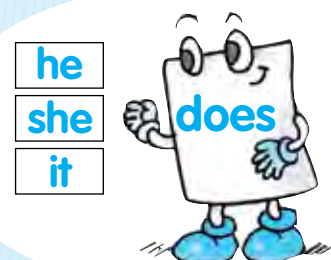
	Singular	Plural
<b>First person</b>	I do	we do
<b>Second person</b>	you do	you do
<b>Third person</b>	he does she does it does	they do they do they do

- Here's a table to remind you about the use of the verb **did**:

	Singular	Plural
<b>First person</b>	I did	we did
<b>Second person</b>	you did	you did
<b>Third person</b>	he did she did it did	they did they did they did

- Learn these contractions:

do not = don't  
does not = doesn't  
did not = didn't



You can also use **do**, **does** and **did** as **helping verbs** to ask and answer questions.



Where **did** you find the wallet?



**Do** ducks **like** water?  
Yes, they **do**.

**Do** you **like** ice cream? Yes, I **do**.

**Does** it **rain** often here? Yes, it **does**.

**Does** he **enjoy** music? Yes, he **does**.

**Did** it **snow** last night? No, it **didn't**.

Who wants to come with me to the zoo? We all **do**!

What **do** you **want** for lunch?

Who broke this vase? Peter **did**!

**Does** Ken often **come** home late? Yes, he **does**.

Why **did** he **leave** so suddenly?

**Does** everyone **have** a dictionary?

Use **do not**, **does not** and **did not** to make other verbs negative.



The baby **does not look** very happy.



Dad **did not catch** his train.



The garden looks lovely, **doesn't** it? Yes, it **does**.

Cats **do not** like water.

I **don't enjoy** difficult math tests.

Sophie **doesn't want** to go to school.

He **didn't get** to the station in time.

**Don't** you **have** a ticket? No, I **don't**.

**Don't** they **go** to the gym on Mondays? Yes, they **do**.

**Didn't** they **win**? No, they **didn't**.

You **didn't draw** that picture yourself, **did** you?

**Did** you **see** the rainbow? No, I **didn't**.

**Do not forget** to switch off the air conditioner.

**Don't tell** lies!

## Exercise

Fill in the blanks with *do*, *does* or *did*.

- 1 The shoes were too small. They \_\_\_\_\_ not fit me.
- 2 Jack \_\_\_\_\_ not do well on the exam last week.
- 3 Where \_\_\_\_\_ eggs come from?
- 4 The vase is broken. Who \_\_\_\_\_ that?
- 5 What \_\_\_\_\_ this word mean?
- 6 How \_\_\_\_\_ the computer work?
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ he drink coffee?
- 8 Who \_\_\_\_\_ that drawing?
- 9 Where \_\_\_\_\_ you buy that dress?
- 10 How \_\_\_\_\_ you spell your name?
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ not play on a busy street!
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ your work quietly!
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ a snake have legs?
- 14 He \_\_\_\_\_ not have any brothers.
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_ cats like to eat fish?

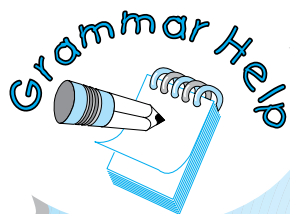
# Would and Should

The verb **would** is another **helping** or **auxiliary verb**.  
Use **would** as the past tense of **will**.



We started running so we **would get** there in time.

Peter said he **would come**.  
I knew you **would enjoy** Disneyland.  
The Prince said he **would** only **marry** a true princess.  
John and Sue said they **would meet** me at the airport.  
He promised he **wouldn't forget** her birthday.



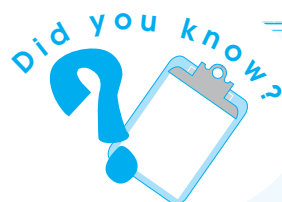
It is polite to use **would like** when you are offering people things, or asking for something yourself. For example:

**Would** you **like** a cup of coffee?

I am tired now. I **d like** a rest.

You **d like** a meal now, **wouldn't** you?

What color **would** you **like**?



When they are accepting an offer, people often use **would love** instead of **would like**.  
For example:

**Would** you **like** a chocolate?

Yes, please, I **would love** one.



**Should** is a **helping** or **auxiliary verb**. Use **should** to talk about necessary actions or things that people ought to do.



Children **should not play** in traffic.



You **should** always **look** before crossing the street.

If you are tired you **should go** to bed early.

You **should know** how to spell your own name.

We **should** all **drink** more water.

You **should do** more exercise.

**Should** I **turn** off the computer when I'm not using it?

**Shouldn't** you **tell** your Mom if you're going out?

We **should** always thank people for presents, **shouldn't** we?



Learn these contractions:

I would = I'd

you would = you'd

he would = he'd

she would = she'd

we would = we'd

they would = they'd

should not = shouldn't

would not = wouldn't



## Exercise

Fill in the blanks with *would* or *should*.

- 1 Every student \_\_\_\_\_ have a good dictionary.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ you like some coffee?
- 3 Yes, I \_\_\_\_\_ love a cup of coffee.
- 4 We \_\_\_\_\_ all learn good table manners.
- 5 We \_\_\_\_\_ like to go outdoors if it stops raining.
- 6 John said he \_\_\_\_\_ help me with science.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ you like to play a game with me?
- 8 Children \_\_\_\_\_ not watch too much television.
- 9 You \_\_\_\_\_ not play with fire.
- 10 He promised he \_\_\_\_\_ meet me after school.
- 11 We \_\_\_\_\_ not waste water.
- 12 You \_\_\_\_\_ all pay attention in class.
- 13 What \_\_\_\_\_ we do now?
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ you help if I asked?
- 15 Of course, I \_\_\_\_\_ help you!

## 8

# Subject-Verb Agreement

When you write a sentence you must make sure that the **subject** and the **verb** agree.

If the subject is a **singular noun**, or the pronoun **he**, **she** or **it**, you need a **singular verb**.



She **enjoys** music.



She **shares** her books with her friends.

The zookeeper **is feeding** the animals.

The children **are playing** on the swings.

The earth **moves** round the sun.

Dad always **drives** to work.

The clerk **is wrapping** a package.

**Does** everyone **know** the answer?

Mom **has bought** a dress for Sara.



It **is snowing**.

Use a **plural verb** if the subject is a **plural noun**, or the pronoun **we**, **you** or **they**.



The two girls always **walk** home together.



All birds **lay** eggs.



The children are **playing** on the swing.

The stars **shine** brightly on a clear night.

Mom and Dad **love** us a lot.

**Do** you all **know** the words?

We **have finished** our game of tennis.

They **have** both **worked** very hard.

**Collective nouns** may be used with either **singular** or **plural** verbs. If the group members are all acting together as one, use a singular verb. If the members of the group are acting as individuals, use a plural verb.



The audience **are** laughing.



The band **is** playing.

### Singular

That family has moved to Texas.  
The team is coached by Mr. Clark.

### Plural

The family were giving their opinions.  
The team are sharing new ideas.



Our team **has** won.



Some plural nouns, such as **people**, **cattle**, **police**, don't end with **-s**. Always use a **plural verb** with these nouns. For example:

People **like** to be praised.

The cattle **are** in the field.

The police **have caught** the thief.

## Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with verbs that match the subjects. Use the correct form of the *simple present tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 I always \_\_\_\_\_ to school with my brother. (go)
- 2 Mark always \_\_\_\_\_ to school with his brother. (go)
- 3 You \_\_\_\_\_ the answer. (know)
- 4 Luis \_\_\_\_\_ the answer, too. (know)
- 5 This book \_\_\_\_\_ very few drawings. (have)
- 6 These books \_\_\_\_\_ lots of beautiful drawings. (have)
- 7 Anne \_\_\_\_\_ my sister. (be)
- 8 Pat and Alice \_\_\_\_\_ good at English. (be)

## Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with verbs that match the subjects. Use the correct form of the *simple present tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 A tiger \_\_\_\_\_. (roar)
- 2 All birds \_\_\_\_\_ eggs. (lay)
- 3 Dad \_\_\_\_\_ listening to music. (like)
- 4 Uncle Bob \_\_\_\_\_ his car every day. (wash)
- 5 She \_\_\_\_\_ all the answers. (know)
- 6 There \_\_\_\_\_ twelve months in a year. (be)
- 7 The twins often \_\_\_\_\_. (fight)
- 8 Our parents \_\_\_\_\_ us. (love)



## 9

## Adverbs

An **adverb** is a word that describes a verb. It tells you about an action, or the way something is done.

A lot of adverbs end in **-ly**.



They laughed **loudly**.

The baby is sleeping **soundly**.



The dog is barking **fiercely**.

Alice skated **beautifully**.

The Prince and the Princess lived **happily** ever after.

The birds are singing **sweetly**.

It is raining **heavily**.

The dog and the cat live together **peacefully**.

The soldiers fought **bravely**.

The sun is shining **brightly**.

The old man walked **slowly**.

## Spelling File

## Adjective

beautiful  
brave  
bright  
fierce  
happy  
heavy  
loud  
peaceful  
slow  
sound  
sweet

## Adverb

beautifully  
bravely  
brightly  
fiercely  
happily  
heavily  
loudly  
peacefully  
slowly  
soundly  
sweetly



Many adverbs are made by adding **-ly** to adjectives.



Some adverbs describe the way something is done.  
They are called **adverbs of manner**.



The driver braked **suddenly**.



The parcel arrived **safely**.



The dog jumped up **playfully**.

Please write **legibly**.

Please speak **clearly**.

Look **closely** at these footprints.

You have all answered **correctly**.

You can shop **cheaply**  
at this store.

Jamal dressed **smartly** for the party.

Maria is behaving **selfishly**.

The man drove **carelessly**.

The twins liked to dress **differently**.

She played **skillfully**.

### Spelling File

#### Adjective

careless  
cheap  
clear  
close  
correct  
different  
playful  
safe  
selfish  
skillful  
smart

#### Adverb

carelessly  
cheaply  
clearly  
closely  
correctly  
differently  
playfully  
safely  
selfishly  
skillfully  
smartly

Some adverbs describe when something happens.  
They are called **adverbs of time**.



Can I do my work **later**?  
No, do it **now**.



Paul has **just** arrived.

He **often** swims in the evening.

Lisa is **always** cheerful.

**Sometimes** I ride my bike to school.

Everyone arrived **early**.

David arrived **late**.

It's snowing **again**.

The mother bird started to build her nest **yesterday**.

She is continuing to build it **today**.

She will finish it **tomorrow**.

John's shoes were too big for him **last year**.

They fit him **this year**.

They will be too small for him **next year**.

It rained **last night**.

The weather is fine **this morning**.

Some adverbs tell you where something happens. They are called **adverbs of place**.



Mom and Dad are watching television **upstairs**.



The children are playing **downstairs**.



It's raining. Let's go **inside**.

Rex, you can stay **outside**.

Come **here**!

Please put the books **there**.

The workers are moving the rubbish **away**.

The miners are working **underground**.

They are going **abroad** to study.

There are trees **everywhere**.

Alice lived **next door**.

**Where's** Shamika?

## Exercise 1

Rewrite the following adjectives as *adverbs*.

- |             |       |               |       |
|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 1 slow      | _____ | 7 cool        | _____ |
| 2 beautiful | _____ | 8 comfortable | _____ |
| 3 strong    | _____ | 9 wise        | _____ |
| 4 tidy      | _____ | 10 quiet      | _____ |
| 5 brave     | _____ | 11 merry      | _____ |
| 6 soft      | _____ | 12 busy       | _____ |

## Exercise 2

Underline the *adverbs* in the following sentences.

- 1 The man shouted loudly.
- 2 He arrived early.
- 3 The train has already left.
- 4 He drove carelessly.
- 5 The students talked noisily.
- 6 The children are playing outside.
- 7 Let's go now.
- 8 Tom spoke politely to his teacher.
- 9 Have you seen Anne's cat anywhere?
- 10 Come here!

## 10

# Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word that connects one thing with another, showing how they are related.

Some prepositions tell you about **position** or **place**.



There's a big balloon  
**in** the sky.



Jane is jumping  
**into** the pool.



The books fell  
**off** the shelf.

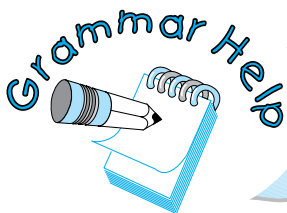
Dad always keeps his wallet **in** the drawer.

There is a long mirror **on** the wall.

The school is **near** the park.

There is an old castle **on** the hill.

The horse jumped **over** the hurdle.



A **preposition** is usually followed by a noun or pronoun.



Some prepositions are used to talk about **time**.



Many shops close **on** Sundays.



We watched the World Cup game **until** 2:00 A.M.



The trees lose their leaves **during** winter.



We always wash our hands **before** meals.



Dad gets home **about** six **in** the evening.

We get up **in** the morning.

We go to bed **at** night.

It's always hot **in** summer.

The movie starts **at** two **in** the afternoon.

Autumn begins **in** September.

They were married **in** 1990.

Joe arrived **after** me.

It has not rained at all **for** two weeks.

Breakfast is served **at** seven o'clock.

Kevin and Joe have been in the same class **since** first grade.



## Exercise 1

Underline the *prepositions* in the following sentences.

- 1 The man fell off the ladder.
- 2 We have dinner at 7:30 P.M.
- 3 Tom was born on a Friday.
- 4 There are seven days in a week.
- 5 Sue is running after her dog.
- 6 Several people are waiting at the bus stop.
- 7 I received a letter from Sara yesterday.
- 8 Why are you still in bed?

## Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct *prepositions* from the box.

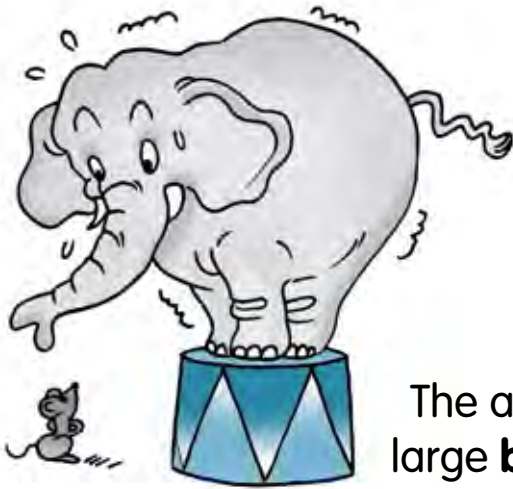
near	by	on	at	between
in	around	into	up	behind

- 1 The bus arrived \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30 A.M.
- 2 The children are swimming \_\_\_\_\_ the pool.
- 3 There's a picture \_\_\_\_\_ the wall.
- 4 There is a fence \_\_\_\_\_ the house.
- 5 Granny is sitting \_\_\_\_\_ fire.
- 6 Harold is hiding \_\_\_\_\_ the chair.
- 7 Jack climbed \_\_\_\_\_ the beanstalk.
- 8 We divided the candy \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- 9 I dived \_\_\_\_\_ the river.
- 10 Don't go too \_\_\_\_\_ the edge.

## 11

## Conjunctions

A **conjunction** is a linking word such as **and**, **or**, **but**.  
Conjunctions are used to connect words or sentences.



The animal is large **but** timid.

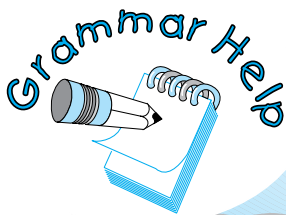


Is this a sheep **or** a goat?

a cat **and** its kittens  
a builder **and** his tools  
a doctor **and** a nurse  
slow **but** steady  
sweet **or** sour?  
a male **or** a female?  
A horse, a zebra **or** a donkey?  
Paul has a dog, a parrot **and** a cat.



It's cold, wet **and** windy today.



A **conjunction** may link two or more than two words or sentences.

The words **before**, **after**, **as**, **when**, **while**, **until**, **since**, are also conjunctions. They tell when something happens, so they are called **conjunctions of time**.



Maggie could play the piano **before** she was five.



I always brush my teeth **after** I've had my breakfast.



**After** he began exercising regularly, Jerry became healthier.



You have grown taller **since** I saw you last.

Look both ways **before** you cross the street.

Joe listened to music **while** he was doing his homework.

Miss Lee was smiling **as** she walked into the class.

Wait here **until** I come back.

Don't leave **until** you've finished your work.

Tran saw an accident **while** he was walking home.

Take all your belongings with you **when** you leave the plane.

Joe first met his wife **when** he was studying in London.

Tom and Joe have been friends **since** childhood.

## Exercise 1

Complete these sentences with *and*, *but* or *or*.

- 1 I asked for some bread \_\_\_\_\_ butter.
- 2 Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Chen have three children.
- 3 Maggie is a good singer \_\_\_\_\_ a poor dancer.
- 4 We wish you a Merry Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ a Happy New Year.
- 5 Is their new baby a boy \_\_\_\_\_ a girl?
- 6 The dictionary has 1000 words \_\_\_\_\_ 200 drawings.
- 7 Sue is taller than Nat \_\_\_\_\_ shorter than Mike.
- 8 Are you going by train \_\_\_\_\_ by bus?

## Exercise 2

Choose the correct *conjunctions of time* from the box to complete these sentences.

when	while	as	before
after	since	until	

- 1 Jack always brushes his teeth \_\_\_\_\_ he has eaten a meal.
- 2 It started to rain \_\_\_\_\_ the children were playing in the garden.
- 3 Let's go home \_\_\_\_\_ it gets dark.
- 4 Give this letter to Anne \_\_\_\_\_ you see her.
- 5 She has known Jack \_\_\_\_\_ he was a child.
- 6 The party began at 8:00 P.M. and lasted \_\_\_\_\_ midnight.
- 7 Alice looked unhappy \_\_\_\_\_ she walked in.

## 12

## Interjections

An **interjection** is a word that expresses a sudden, strong feeling such as **surprise**, **pain**, or **pleasure**.

Cheers!



Oh dear!



Happy Birthday!



Ssh!



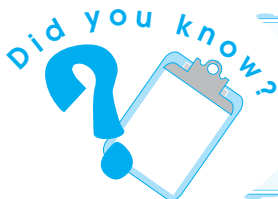
Ouch!



Look out!



Wow!  
Goodness!  
Oh!  
Good!  
Oh no!  
Hooray!  
Thanks!  
Help!  
Good luck!  
Well done!  
Gosh!  
Hey!  
Merry Christmas!  
Happy New Year!



Notice that an **exclamation point (!)** is often used after interjections.

# 13 Sentences

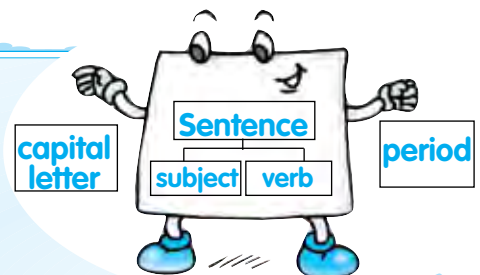
## What is a Sentence?

A **sentence** is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. A sentence must have a **subject** and a **verb**, but it may or may not have an object.

Subject	Verb	Object
Sally	is making	a doll.
Wendy and Kim	are fighting.	
The hedgehog	curled up.	
Maggie	is reading	a book.
It	is raining.	
Dad	cooked	dinner.
I	am flying	a kite.
We	are eating	our breakfast.
They	are washing	the dishes.
The dentist	is examining	Susan's teeth.
The old couple	have	no children.
Janet	screamed.	



A **sentence** that makes a statement begins with a **capital letter** and ends with a **period**.





# Kinds of Sentences

There are **four kinds** of sentences.

- ▶ A **declarative sentence** makes a **statement**.

The children are swimming.  
The telephone rang.  
Everyone sat down.

Richard is feeding  
the hens.



- ▶ An **interrogative sentence** asks a **question**.

Where are the twins?  
Are you going shopping today?  
What is your name?

What is Richard  
doing?



- ▶ An **exclamatory sentence** expresses strong emotion.

What lovely weather!

The silly girl!  
How stupid I am!



- ▶ An **imperative sentence** gives an **order**.

Please sit down.  
Tell me the truth.  
Speak up!

Come back!



# The Imperative

Use the base form of a verb to give **commands** or make direct requests. This use of the verb is called the **imperative**.



OK, children, **open** your books to page 25.

**Stand**, everyone!  
**Tidy** your bedroom immediately!  
**Choose** a partner!  
**Eat** plenty of vegetables.  
**Find** some nice round pebbles.  
**Come** back soon!  
**Take** a sandwich.  
**Come** and **look** at this, Tom!

Imperatives are a very direct way of telling people to do something. Using **do** or **please** before an imperative is more polite.



**Please** come in.

**Do** sit down.  
**Do** check these figures again.  
**Please** help yourselves to some food.  
**Please** don't change anything on my computer.



You can also use the helping verb **would** to sound polite. For example:

Please **would** you clear the table?  
**Would** you please talk quietly?



## Exercise

Look at the groups of words below. Do you know which are *sentences* and which are not?

Put a checkmark in the space next to sentences, and an X next to other word groups.

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Mrs. Chen is a good teacher. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 not well today               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Do the work yourself.        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 How are you?                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 basic rules of grammar       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 bread and butter             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Welcome to the National Zoo. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 brush his teeth              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 toys in the box              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 more than one               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 What is the time now?       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 Sit down!                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 Please come here.           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 Mark is sleeping.           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 Open the door.              | <input type="checkbox"/> |