



Sentences

Sentences are formed by putting words next to each other, but we do not always need more than one word to make a meaningful sentence.

< beginner Intermediate **Advanced**

>

What Are Sentences?

Sentences are formed by placing different words in a particular order to convey a specific meaning. Even a single word can convey a meaningful concept in English, so, we can have **one-word** sentences in English. But usually, sentences have a subject and a predicate.

Sentences: Types Based on Mood

Sentences are mainly categorized into four moods as follows:

1. declarative
2. interrogative
3. imperative
4. exclamative

Declarative Sentences

Declarative sentences give information about something. They have a **subject** and a **predicate** which is made of a verb and sometimes a subject complement or an object complement. Here are the examples.

My mother used to have long straight hair.

His father isn't rational enough to bear this.

Declarative sentences are further divided into two groups:

1. negative declarative sentences
2. affirmative declarative sentences

Affirmative sentences have positive verbs. We use negation rules to form *negative sentences*. Check out the examples.

You **should** study to get a good job in the future.

We **do** not get a good salary.

Interrogative Sentences

We use the **interrogative mood** to ask *questions* or to *ask for information* about something. Usually, interrogative sentences are **inverted**. Here are the examples.

What was your name again?

Were you at the party last night?

Interrogative sentences are categorized into two groups:

1. wh-questions
2. yes/no questions

Wh-questions start with an interrogative-word and yes/no questions start with an auxiliary verb. Check the examples.

Where do you live?

Did you talk to your teacher?



My mother drank the tea gently.

an example of declarative sentence

Imperative Sentences

Imperative sentences are used to give *orders*. They are usually made of only one word which is actually the **imperative verb**. Here are some examples:

Sit down!

Have fun!

English Imperative sentences are also of two types:

- imperative sentence using **only one verb**
- imperative sentence using **a subject and a verb**

The *subject* of an **imperative sentence** is the pronoun '**you**' that is usually omitted because it is implied in the meaning of the imperative verb. For example:

You shut up!

Speak!

Imperative Verbs vs. 'Should' and 'Must'

Should and must are not imperative verbs. **Imperative verbs** can be used *without subjects*. However, you can never use modal verbs on their own as an imperative verb. So, If you can omit the *subject without* harming the formation of the sentence, then the verb is an imperative verb.

You start reading → **start** reading ✓

* In this example, **start** is an imperative verb.

You must study → **must** study ✗

* In this example the verb '*must*' cannot be used without a subject so it isn't an imperative verb.

You should clean your room → **should** clean your room ✗

Negative Imperatives

Since imperative verbs are all **main verbs**, to form **negative imperatives** all you have to do is add **don't** to the beginning of the imperative sentence. For example:

Do not take my car!

Don't be jealous!

Exclamatory Sentences

Exclamatory sentences are used to show *surprise* or other strong emotions. Commonly, exclamations are formed using the words 'what' and 'how'. Here are the examples:

What a nice day!

How amazing!

Punctuation Marks

Every type of sentence is followed by a particular **punctuation mark**. You can see the **punctuations** used for each sentence type on the following list:

- Period: declarative sentences (.)
- Question mark: interrogative sentences (?)
- Exclamation mark: exclamatory and imperative sentences (!)

Sentences: Types Based on Structure

Based on their structure, sentences are categorized into four groups:

1. simple sentences
2. compound sentences
3. complex sentences
4. compound-complex sentences

Simple Sentences

Simple sentences consist of a **subject** as the *doer* of activity and a *predicate* which represents the action. **Simple sentences** are not followed by any other *dependent* or *subordinate clauses*. For example:

Sara is beautiful.

My mother drank the tea gently.

Compound Sentences

Compound sentences are two independent sentences that are joined together using linking words or conjunctions, and semicolons. Here are the examples:

This is too expensive, **but** I will buy it.

I want to gain weight, **yet** I don't like eating.

Complex Sentences

Complex sentences are formed from an *independent clause* and at least one *dependent clause* linked to the independent clause. Here are the examples.

I moved in **since** I finished high school.

You will pass **if** you study better.

Compound-Complex Sentences

Compound-complex sentences combine compound sentences with complex sentences. A compound-complex sentence has at least two *independent clauses* and one *dependent clause*. Here are the examples:

He cried **when** he left, **but** I didn't care.

I am beautiful **and** my mother is beautiful too, **yet** my grandfather says she is more beautiful than me.

Review

Sentences are made from different words. Based on their **mood** they are categorized into four groups:

- declarative
- interrogatory
- imperative
- exclamatory

Based on their structure, they are categorized into four groups as well.

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

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Simple Sentences



Most of us learned how to put three words together to make sentences in kindergarten: I love puppies! Games are fun! Let's learn all about simple sentences!

