A synthetic sentence is a statement whose truth or falsity can only be determined by its relationship to the real world or by empirical observation. The meaning of a synthetic sentence is not inherent in the words themselves but depends on external factors and verifiable evidence.

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**How Synthetic Sentences Work**

The truth of a synthetic sentence is not a matter of logic or definition. You have to go outside the sentence to verify it. The word "synthetic" comes from Greek roots meaning "put together," suggesting that the meaning and truth value are *put together* from the words and the external world.

Here are some examples of synthetic sentences:

- "The sky is blue." (You have to look at the sky to verify this.)

- "My car is parked outside." (You have to check to see if the car is actually there.)

- "It rained in Lahore yesterday." (You have to check a weather report or witness the rain to confirm this.)

- "Humans have walked on the moon." (This is a historical fact that is empirically verifiable.)

The defining characteristic of a synthetic sentence is that its negation is not a logical contradiction. The opposite of "The sky is blue" is "The sky is not blue," and both are logically possible statements, even if one is false in the current context.

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**Synthetic vs. Analytic Sentences**

Synthetic sentences are contrasted with **analytic sentences**. The key difference is the source of their truth.

- **Analytic Sentence:** A statement whose truth is guaranteed by the meaning of the words alone. It's true by definition.

    o **Example:** "A bachelor is an unmarried man." You don't need to look at the world to know this is true; it's a matter of logic and definition.

- **Synthetic Sentence:** A statement whose truth depends on external, verifiable information. Its truth value can change.

This distinction is central to philosophy and semantics and was famously explored by Immanuel Kant and later by logical positivists.