

Sentences

12 Sentence

A group of words which makes *complete sense* is called a **sentence**. A **sentence** contains:

1. a **subject** (what the sentence is about, the topic of the sentence), and
2. a **predicate** (what is said about the subject)

Types of Sentences

12.1 Sentences on the Basis of Function

There are four basic types of sentences that are used in spoken and written language.

These are:

- i. Declarative Sentences
- ii. Interrogative Sentences
- iii. Imperative Sentences
- iv. Exclamatory Sentences

12.1.1 Declarative Sentences

A declarative sentence is a sentence that gives information and it ends with a full stop. A declarative sentence may be a simple sentence, have a subject and predicate or it may be a compound sentence having a comma (,) and a conjunction or a semicolon (;) used with or without a transition word.

Examples:

- a) I like climbing.
- b) He is eight years old.
- c) The sky is blue.
- d) He wanted to play football, but his friends wanted to play basketball.
- e) She plays the piano, and he sings along.
- f) She had to make the next flight; she quickly packed her bag.
- g) The house has new windows; however, the roof still leaks.

12.1.2 Interrogative Sentences

Interrogative sentences are used for asking direct questions. These sentences end with a question mark (?). Interrogative sentences may begin with either a Wh-' word or a helping verb.

Examples:

- a) What is the right way to iron a shirt?

- b) When are the best days to go to the mall?
- c) Where is your new cat?
- d) Are your shoes on?
- e) Did you eat lunch yet?
- f) Was the movie enjoyable?

12.1.3 Imperative Sentences

Imperative sentences are used to tell someone to do something. Imperative sentences express a piece of advice, a suggestion, a request, an order, or some instructions. An imperative sentence always starts with a verb.

Examples:

- a) Turn left at the bridge.
- b) Please pass me the jam.
- c) Close the door.
- d) Leave immediately.
- e) Let us go to the park.
- f) Take a rest now.
- g) Get out!
- h) Wait for me.

12.1.4 Exclamatory Sentences

Exclamatory sentences are those sentences that express emotions. Exclamatory sentences end with an exclamatory mark (!). Interjections are usually used to form exclamatory sentences.

Examples:

- a) Alas! I have ruined my life.
- b) Hurrah! They have returned safely.
- c) Oh, you shocked me!
- d) Wow, that is fantastic!
- e) What a lovely piece of art!
- f) I'm so mad right now!

Transition Words

Transitional words are used for a smooth flow of ideas in a writing. Some of the transitional words are: Above all, accordingly, as an example, before, besides, by the way, consequently, either, furthermore, generally, in addition to, in short, lastly, likewise, next, otherwise, regularly, soon, there, thereby, usually.

12.2 Sentences on the Basis of Structure

- i. Simple Sentence
- ii. Compound Sentence
- iii. Complex Sentence

iv. Compound-Complex Sentence

12.2.1 Simple Sentence

A simple sentence consists of one independent clause. An independent clause contains a **subject** and a **verb** and expresses a complete thought.

Examples:

- a. Mary likes tea.
- b. We did not go to the park.
- c. The earth revolves around the sun.
- d. Water boils at 100 degree centigrade at sea level.

12.2.2 Compound Sentence

- A compound sentence is a combination of two or more independent clauses joined either by a coordinating conjunction or semi-colon. Each clause if separated could form a sentence alone.
- **Examples:**
 - a. All likes tea **and** Majid likes coffee.
 - b. Our car broke down; we came last.

12.2.3 Complex Sentence

A complex sentence consists of an independent clause and a dependent clause. A dependent clause starts with either a **subordinating conjunction** or a **relative pronoun**. A dependent clause contains a subject and verb, but it does not express a complete thought.

Examples:

- a. We missed our plane **because** we were late.
- b. Our dog barks **when** she hears a noise.
- c. He left in a hurry **after** he got a phone call.
- d. Do you know the man **who** is talking to Jim?

12.2.4 Compound-Complex Sentence

A compound-complex sentence consists of at **least two independent** clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

Examples:

- a. He did not come **because** he was ill **so** his friend was not happy.
- b. Aslam left in a hurry **after** he got a phone call **but** he came back ten minutes later.



Grammar Exercise — 5

1. Read the following sentences and identify the types of sentences.

- a. Please shut the windows and doors.
- b. Do you like chocolate pastries?
- c. Where are you going?
- d. Such a beautiful place!
- e. Go and try this new flavour.
- f. Today is Monday.
- g. Please clean your cupboard today.
- h. Turn off all the lights and fans when you leave the room.
- i. May I come in?
- j. How would you like your coffee?
- k. I love reading storybooks.
- l. The Earth revolves around the Sun.
- m. Alas! We have lost the trophy.
- n. Hurray! We have won the competition.
- o. He lives in a big city.
- p. As soon as the bell rang, the students rushed out.
- q. He looked at his father and smiled.
- r. Aslam and Anwar had their dinner and went for a walk.
- s. The little boy started crying when he could not find his toy.
- t. Akbar forgot his friend's birthday, so he sent him a card when he finally remembered.
- u. While playing cricket, the ball thrown by my friend hit a man crossing the road.