



Kinds of Sentences

A set of words, arranged in a pre-determined order, so that they express a clear thought, is called a sentence.

We make use of sentences when we are speaking, reading or writing.

All sentences begin with a capital letter.

We punctuate the sentences by a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark at the end, depending on what the sentence is conveying.

Based on their purpose we classify the sentences in the following four types:

A) Assertive or Declarative Sentence:

When a sentence makes a statement and gives us information about a noun, is said to be an Assertive or Declarative Sentence.

An Assertive or declarative sentence always ends with a period or full stop. (.)

Example:

Reading helps gain knowledge.



A poisonous snake bit the boy.

This summer vacation my family is travelling to America.



B) Interrogative Sentence:

A sentence that asks a question or requests information is called an Interrogative sentence.

It always ends with a question mark. (?)

Interrogative Sentences are of four types:

- (1) Wh - questions: These are direct questions that begin with a wh word - How, What, When, Where, Why, Which, Who, Whose, Whom

Example:



How many eggs did the hen lay?



Why was the child crying?



Where is my book?

- (2) Yes - No questions: These are questions, for which the answer could be either a 'yes' or a 'no'.

Example:



Did it rain yesterday in your town?



Is the teacher going to give us a test today?

Will you play with me?



- (3) Choice questions: These are questions that contain two or more alternatives or choices.

Example:



Should I call you Mr. Brown or Mr. Sam?

Do you prefer tea or coffee?



(4) **Question tags:** These are questions where a tag question word is added at the end of a statement.

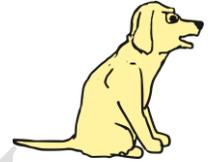
Tag question words are helping verbs followed by a pronoun.

Example:

Rita likes chocolates, doesn't she?



The dog was barking all night, wasn't it?



Yesterday, they weren't at home, were they?

Rules for adding the tag:

An Affirmative statement carries a negative tag and

A negative statement carries an affirmative tag.

C) Exclamatory Sentence:

A sentence that conveys an excitement or emotion of the speaker is an Exclamatory sentence.

We use exclamation mark (!) at the end of the sentence.

Example:

What a pleasant surprise!



How clever you are!



We won the match!



If a sentence uses an interjection (see parts of speech), we put the exclamation mark after it, followed by a declarative sentence.

D) Imperative Sentence:

A sentence that gives an order, command, request, suggestion, proposal or instructions is an Imperative Sentence.

An imperative sentence begins with a verb and ends with a period or full stop. (.)

Example:

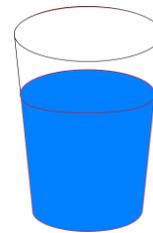
Take a step forward. (order)



Let's go for a walk. (suggestion)



Please get me a glass of water. (request)



Don't go too close to the fire. (instruction)

