

Types of Sentences

What is a sentence?

A sentence is a group of words which makes complete sense on its own. A sentence is made up of at least one clause.

Type of Sentence	What is it?	Examples
Statement	A statement is a sentence that simply tells the reader something.	My sister gave me some money. I left my umbrella under the stairs.
Question	They are sentences that ask a question and have a question mark at the end of the sentence.	Who pushed the red button? Where did I leave my sparkly shoes?
Command	A command is when you are telling someone to do something. They usually start with a verb.	Go and tidy your room. Pass me the gravy.
Exclamation	Exclamations show strong feelings or emotions. These sentences have an exclamation mark at the end.	I don't believe it! What a beautiful day it is!



Be careful!

Exclamation sentences must start with 'How' or 'What' and contain and subject, then a verb.

The subject always comes before the verb.

Find more information about exclamations under the punctuation tab.

A sentence may consist of a single main clause. Sentences like this are called simple sentences. They can also be called single-clause sentences.

E.g The sun was burning bright.

He lifted his chair carefully.

A sentence may also be made up of more than one clause; therefore, this is called a multi-clause sentence. There are two types of multi-clause sentences:

Compound Sentences

Compound sentences are made up of two main (independent) clauses joined with a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS).

Both parts of the sentence are of equal importance.



E.g The sun was shining, **so** the people got burnt.

The seagulls sang **and** the sea came in.

I wanted to play outside, **but** it was pouring with rain.

An experienced writer uses a variety of sentences to make their writing interesting and lively.
Too many simple sentences, for example, will sound choppy and boring while too many long sentences will be difficult to read and hard to understand.

Can you identify the main clause and the subordinate clause in the sentence?

Complex Sentences

Complex sentences are made up of one main clause (independent) and at least one subordinate clause (dependent).

Subordinate clauses don't make complete sense on their own.

These clauses are joined with a subordinating conjunction. There are many subordinating conjunctions; we can remember some of them by using 'A WHITE BUS'.



A	WH	I	T	E	B	U	S
although as after	wherever when whereas whether which	if in case in order that	though till that	even though even if	because before	until unless	since

E.g **While** the breeze blew, people flew colourful kites.

Even though I was late for the bus, I still got to school on time.

Beatrice brushed her hair **before** she left for school.

The subordinating conjunction can come at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence depending on which way around the clauses are.