

TYPES OF SENTENCES

OR

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

i. 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 semi colon (;) 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.

ii. INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

Interrogative sentences are used for asking direct questions. These sentences end with a question mark (?). Interrogatives 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?

iii. IMPERATIVE SENTENCES

Imperative sentences are used telling someone to do something. Imperative sentences include advice, suggestion, request, order, or instructions. These sentences can be identified by looking at the verb that gives some instructions

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 rest now.
- g. Get out!
- h. Wait for me.

iv. EXCLAMATORY SENTENCES

Exclamatory sentences are those sentences that express emotions. Exclamatory sentences end with an exclamatory mark (!).

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.

KINDS OF SENTENCES

OR

SENTENCES ON THE BASIS OF STRUCTURE

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

i. SIMPLE SENTENCE

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

EXAMPLES:

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

ii. 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.

❖ **COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS-FANBOYS:** For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

EXAMPLES:

- a. Allen likes tea **and** John likes coffee.
- b. Our car broke down; we came last.

iii. 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.

❖ SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS:

After, Although, As, Because, Before, How, If, Once, Since, Than, That, Though, Till, Until, When, Where, Whether, While

❖ RELATIVE PRONOUNS:

That, Which, Who, Whom, Whose

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?

iv. COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

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

STRUCTURE OF COMPOUND-COMPLEX SENTENCE

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| INDEPENDENT CLAUSE | SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION | DEPENDENT CLAUSE | COORDINATING CONJUNCTION | INDEPENDENT CLAUSE |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|

EXAMPLES:

- a. John didn't come **because** he was ill so Mary was not happy.
- b. He left in a hurry **after** he got a phone call but he came back five minutes later.
- c. I could not decide **where** I should work or what I should do, so at first I did nothing.