

SENTENCES AND SENTENCE PATTERNS

SENTENCES (DECLARATIVE, INTERROGATIVE, ETC.)

In the English language, four types of sentences are used: declarative sentences, imperative sentences, interrogative sentences, and exclamatory sentences.

Exclamatory Sentences are sentences which provide exclamations of a sudden gesture, a sudden action, or a sudden command to action.

Example:

Whoa!

Crap!

Go to the right!

Notice how Exclamatory Sentences may not contain the traditional subject-predicate structure.

Ultimately, exclamatory sentences exist as single words or groups of words which show strong emotions. Note: They may be combined with or exist as other types of sentences; however, if they show strong emotion then they remain exclamatory sentences.

Example:

Hurry!

Hurry, purchase your new furniture!

Interrogative Sentences are sentences which ask questions.

Example:

Where do you live?

Can you open this bottle?

Notice how Interrogative Sentences may not contain the traditional subject-predicate structure.

Interrogative Sentences may exist as single words or groups of words which ask questions. They may have not have subjects or even verbs. They may even be fragments.

Example:

Hungry?

Are you hungry?

Imperative Sentences are sentences which provide commands, directions, and rules/orders.

Example:

Buckle your seatbelt.

Please refrain from talking during the lecture.

Notice how imperative sentences contain an implied YOU. As in our example: [You] Buckle your seatbelt.

Imperative Sentences are groups of words which do not necessarily contain a physical subject and which give commands.

1) Verb + Direct Object
Push the lever.

2) Verb + Object of the Preposition
Run around the neighborhood.

Declarative Sentences are sentences which provide facts and opinions.

Example:

Whales are mammals.

Dolphins are amazing creatures.

Declarative Sentences are groups of words which contain a subject and a verb, and make statements.

SENTENCES (SIMPLE, COMPOUND, & COMPLEX)

Simple to Complex: Combining Clauses

Sentences come in different varieties:

a. Simple

Contains one complete clause and expresses one idea.

Example:

Professors grade many tests.

b. Compound

Contains two complete clauses and expresses two ideas.

Example:

Professors grade tests, and they grade papers.

c. Complex

Contains one complete clause and one partial clause (expresses one idea with details)

Example:

When the end of the semester approaches, professors grade many tests.

d. Compound-Complex

Contains (at least) two complete clauses and (at least) one partial clause (expresses two or more ideas with details).

Example:

When the end of the semester approaches, professors grade many tests, and they grade many papers.

