

Kinds of Sentences

A sentence is a complete unit of thought, consisting of at least a subject and a predicate.

1. A declarative sentence makes a statement and ends with a period.

EXAMPLES Amy Tan was born in Oakland, California.
I couldn't hear what Jason said.

2. An imperative sentence gives a command or makes a request. Most imperative sentences end with a period. A strong command ends with an exclamation point.

EXAMPLES Be quiet during the play. [command]
Please give me another piece of melon. [request]
Stop! [strong command]

The subject of a command or a request is always *you*, even if *you* doesn't appear in the sentence. In such cases, *you* is called the ***understood subject***.

EXAMPLES (You) Be quiet during the play.
(You) Please give me another piece of melon.
(You) Stop!

The word *you* is the understood subject even when the person spoken to is addressed by name.

EXAMPLE Miguel, (you) please answer the phone

3. An interrogative sentence asks a question and ends with a question mark.

EXAMPLES When did you return from your camping trip?
Did the surfboard cost much?

4. An exclamatory sentence shows excitement or expresses strong feeling and ends with an exclamation point.

EXAMPLES Gabriella won the match!
How terrifying that movie was!

Classifying Sentences by Purpose

Label each of the following sentences *declarative, imperative, interrogative, or exclamatory*.

EXAMPLE Ask Yoshiko for the address. (*imperative*)

1. Will your grandfather compete in the Kansas City Marathon again this year?
2. Our school's project, cleaning up the Silver River Nature Preserve, was a success.
3. Bring more sandbags over here now!
4. Please line up alphabetically.
5. Read this poem by Naomi Shihab Nye.

Classifying and Punctuating Sentences

Write the last word of each of the following sentences, adding the correct end mark. Then, label each sentence as *declarative, imperative, interrogative, or exclamatory*.

EXAMPLE Are prairie dogs social creatures (*creatures?—interrogative*)

6. Many of these small mammals live together in underground "towns" like the one shown below
7. Look at how prairie dogs dig family burrows
8. How large are the burrows
9. The burrows sometimes cover several acres
10. What alert animals prairie dogs are