

Set of exercises about sentences and its structures

Kinds of Sentences: Declarative and Interrogative

A group of words that expresses a complete thought is a **sentence**. All sentences begin with a capital letter.

A **declarative sentence** makes a statement. It ends with a period.

An **interrogative sentence** asks a question. It ends with a question mark.

Florida summers are very hot. (Declarative)

Are summers in Florida very hot? (interrogative)

Exercise 1

Write in the blank *dec.* (declarative) if the sentence makes a statement or *int.* (interrogative) if the sentence asks a question.

int. Can you help me with my algebra?

1. I'm going swimming today.
2. Is the president addressing the nation on television tonight?
3. My grandfather was an army sergeant.
4. Have you met the new teacher yet?
5. The wind knocked down a large tree.
6. Ahmed, will you help me practice my lines?
7. Are you going to camp this summer?
8. You are good at solving puzzles.
9. How long did it take you to read *The Red Badge of Courage*?
10. Our soccer team won the league championship.

Exercise 2

Punctuate each of the following sentences with a period or question mark.

The new car is midnight blue.

1. Have you met amina yet
2. Who is hungry
3. This computer doesn't work
4. The fire engines roared past us
5. Suzanne wandered home from school
6. The desk was cluttered with all kinds of papers

Kinds of Sentences: Exclamatory and Imperative

A sentence may do more than express a statement or ask a question.

An **exclamatory sentence** expresses a strong emotion. It ends with an exclamation point.

An **imperative sentence** gives a command or makes a request. It ends with a period.

Look out! (strong emotion)

Don't forget the party Saturday. (Command)

Please mail these letters on your way to Janet's house. (Request)

Exercise 3

Write in the blank *exc.* (exclamatory) if the sentence expresses a strong feeling. Write *imp.* (imperative) if the sentence gives a command or makes a request. Add a period or an exclamation point as needed.

imp. Remember to keep your eyes on the ball at all times.

1. Don't stay up too late

2. What a terrific day we had at the zoo
3. Watch out for that low branch
4. Tell me more about your fishing trip
5. Don't run in the halls
6. Buy more glue when you go to the store
7. Clean up your desk, please
8. Let's go watch the parade
9. Turn in your book report next week
10. Try to solve the puzzle before the contestant does
11. Let the baby sleep
12. Oh, you just sat in some wet paint
13. Feed the animals at the same time every day
14. Turn in your book report next week
15. I can't wait until Grandma gets here

Sentence Fragments

Every sentence must have a subject and a predicate to express a complete thought.

The **subject** part of a sentence names who or what the sentence is about.

The **predicate** part tells what the subject does or has. It can also describe what the subject is or is like.

SUBJECT

PREDICATE

My friend ahmed will play in the volleyball tournament.

A **sentence fragment** is a group of words that lacks a subject, a predicate, or both. A fragment does not express a complete thought.

Will play in the volleyball tournament. (lacks a subject)

My friend Ahmed. (Lacks a predicate)

Without a doubt. (Lacks both a subject and a predicate)

Without a doubt, my friend ahmed will play in the volleyball tournament. (Expresses a complete thought)

Exercise 4

Write *sentence* in the blank before each word group that expresses a complete thought. Write *fragment* next to each word group that does not express a complete thought.

fragment Wore her warmest sweater.

1. The survivors of the earthquake showed great courage.
2. Caused problems everywhere.
3. Every Sunday their family went hiking.
4. Even the rain couldn't dampen their spirits.
5. Rode calmly and quietly in the backseat.
6. Rose in the air like a bird.
7. Of his meal untouched.

8. Hundreds of firefighters fought the forest fires last summer.
9. The thought escaped him.
10. As fragile as glass.
11. In the park for our picnic.

Subjects and Predicates: Simple and Complete

Both a subject and a predicate may consist of more than one word.

The **complete subject** includes all of the words in the subject part of a sentence.

The **complete predicate** includes all of the words in the predicate part of a sentence.

COMPLETE SUBJECT

COMPLETE PREDICATE

My younger brother

likes alphabet soup for lunch.

The **simple subject** is the main word or group of words in the complete subject.

The **simple predicate** is the main word or group of words in the complete predicate.

The simple predicate is always a **verb**, a word or words that express an action or a state of being.

SIMPLE SUBJECT

SIMPLE PREDICATE

My younger **brother**

likes alphabet soup for lunch.

Exercise 5

Draw a vertical line between the complete subject and the complete predicate.

People call Australia the continent “down under.”

1. Australia is one of the most spectacular countries in the world.
2. The country is both the smallest continent and the largest island.
3. This small continent lies in the Southern Hemisphere.
4. The coastline of Australia is irregular.
5. It measures 12,210 miles.
6. The island state of Tasmania once formed the southeastern corner of the mainland.
7. The Great Barrier Reef continues along the eastern coast for 1,250 miles.
8. Four species of coral reef compose the chain of reefs and islands.
9. Australia’s western regions form a great plateau.

Exercise 6

Draw one line under the simple subject and two lines under the simple predicate.

Australia has many unique plants and animals.

1. Forests cover the east coast of Tasmania.
2. The forests consist mainly of pine trees.
3. The dingo is a doglike animal.
4. It hunts sheep.
5. Dingoes prey on kangaroos as well.

6. Many people find wallabies interesting.
7. They are small members of the kangaroo family.
8. Wallabies belong to the marsupial order.
9. Female wallabies carry their young in a pouch.
10. Two species of crocodiles dwell in Australia.
11. The Queensland lungfish has no gills.
12. A lungfish breathes with a single lung.
13. Six hundred fifty species of birds live in Australia.
14. One hundred species of venomous snakes lurk on the ground.
15. The ocean offers seventy species of sharks.
16. Sharks pose no threat to people in most cases.

Subjects and Predicates: Compound

A sentence may have more than one simple subject or simple predicate.

A **compound subject** is two or more simple subjects that have the same predicate. The subjects are joined by *and*, *or*, *either...or*, *neither...nor*, or *but*.

Oregon and **Washington** lie in the Pacific Northwest. (compound subject)

A **compound predicate** is two or more simple predicates, or verbs, that have the same subject. The verbs are connected by *and*, *or*, *either...or*, *neither...nor*, or *but*.

Many people neither **enjoy** nor **appreciate** modern art. (Compound predicate)

Exercise 1 Each of these sentences has either a compound subject, a compound predicate, or both. Draw one line under the simple subjects in each compound subject. Draw two lines under the simple predicates in each compound predicate.

Water streamed across the street and ran into the gutter.

1. Apples and pears grow on trees.
2. Workers pick apples and package them for sale.
3. Joi and her sisters sang for the congregation.
4. Wes or Raquel showed the office to the guests.
5. We ate and slept on the bus.
6. The ceiling and the walls are the same color.
7. Both Arizona and New Mexico have hot deserts.
8. Thoughtful neighbors and friends of the family sent sympathy cards.
9. Either red or blue clashes with this color.
10. Copper and iron have many uses

Exercise 7

Write *declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, or imperative* in the blank to identify the kind of sentence. Add the correct punctuation mark. Write *fragment* if the word group is not a complete thought.

imperative Bring me a glass of water, please.

1. On Tuesday morning the choir leaves for its European tour
2. Our area of the state has received twelve inches of snow
3. Which person concealed the evidence
4. What a mess that puppy made
5. On a day everyone could be there
6. Sit over here away from the door
7. Brianna was promoted to editor of the school newspaper
8. Have you ever tried fly-fishing
9. This ride is making me dizzy
10. Meet us outside the restaurant at 11:30 A.M

Exercise 8

Write *S* in the blank before each simple sentence and *C* before each compound sentence. Draw one line under each simple subject and two lines under each simple predicate.

S The nail had punctured the right front tire.

1. The tallow was used in candles and soap.
2. Are these blueprints all right, or will you need others?
3. Pikes Peak is in Colorado; it is 14,110 feet above sea level.
4. Outdoor sports are great, but only in the summer.
5. Cardinals nest in our yard every spring.
6. Ballet interests Emily; she is seeing *The Nutcracker* this weekend.
7. People lease cars from Uncle Ferdinand.
8. We decided on the Italian food, and Margo ordered Mexican food

Exercise 9

Underline each common noun once and each proper noun twice. Write in the blank *plural, possessive, contraction, or appositive* to identify the word in italics.

contraction *Neil Armstrong's* a famous astronaut.

1. The Empire State Building used to be *America's* tallest building.
2. Jon's an excellent skater, and his *brother's* a great swimmer.
3. The *buckeye's* a kind of chestnut.
4. Edwin Hubble was the first to show that the universe contains other *galaxies* besides the Milky Way.

5. The boy's teacher taught him *volleyball's* finer points.
6. The crowd at Cape Kennedy cheered the *rocket's* lift-off.
7. Neal was born on his *grandfather's* farm in western Oklahoma.
8. The Pointer *Sisters* sing songs with complicated harmonies.
9. Isaiah, my best *friend*, is moving to Kansas City, Missouri.
10. Governor Stevenson is the best governor our state has had in several *years*.
11. The campers took backpacks and *flashlights* when they camped out in the Appalachian Mountains.
12. *Hillary's* going to try out for the next musical.
13. The musical *Oklahoma!* will be presented to the Parent-Teacher Association.
14. The contestants had to memorize one of *Robert Frost's* poems.
15. The *tourists* attended the rodeo celebrating Annie Oakley.
16. *Maureen's* the most talented flutist in the Johnson Middle School Orchestra.
17. Mrs. Phillips, the children's *teacher*, has a keen sense of fashion.
18. The *fullback's* helmet fell off when he was tackled.

An **adjective** modifies, or describes, a noun or a pronoun. An adjective provides information about the size, shape, color, texture, feeling, sound, smell, number, or condition of a noun or a pronoun.

Brown wrens sometimes build nests above **front** doors.

Most adjectives come before the words they modify. A **predicate adjective** follows a linking verb and modifies the noun or pronoun that is the subject of the sentence.

The clerks in this store are **polite** and **friendly**.

The present participle and past participle forms of verbs may be used as adjectives and predicate adjectives.

A **barking** dog kept me awake all night. (present participle)

The crowd was **excited**. (past participle)

Exercise 10

Draw one line under each adjective phrase. Draw two lines under each adverb phrase.

Within the last few years, the quality of home entertainment has changed dramatically.

1. With modern advancements, high-quality sound no longer requires huge speakers.
2. Some of the most advanced systems use only three-inch speakers.
3. "Home theater" sound systems place speakers behind the listeners.
4. With stunning realism, these rear speakers enhance the recordings almost to the level of a live performance.
5. It is difficult to imagine the improvement beyond stereo; you must hear it for yourself.

6. Video images with greater resolution and clarity are also reaching new heights of quality.
7. Until the last two to three years, projection televisions, with their huge screens, were inferior to sets with cathode ray tubes.
8. Manufacturers have responded to consumer demands by building television sets with greater brightness and resolution.
9. As digital recording spreads throughout the industry, one can expect virtually perfect sound reproduction even after years of use; old-style records deteriorate with every play.
10. Superb production within the confines of our homes is a reality within reach of even modest budgets.

Exercise 11

Underline each prepositional phrase. Circle each conjunction and conjunctive adverb. Write in the blank *coord.* for coordinating conjunction, *correl.* for correlative conjunction, or *conj.* for conjunctive adverb.

coord. The little girl and her dog skipped merrily by the playground.

1. Maxwell jumped off the wagon; likewise, Todd followed behind him.
2. Neither the Ferrari nor the Porsche is made in America.
3. The flag glistened and flapped in the breeze as the national anthem was played.
4. The drug store was around the corner from the pet shop and the candy store.
5. Alberto not only caught the pass in one hand but also gained four yards before the whistle.
6. The store in the mall has higher prices than this one, but I like the clothes here^{better}.
7. The music on the radio was making me sleepy; therefore, I did my homework without it.
8. Casey wanted a golden retriever; thus, she never stopped hinting for one.
9. Either the black car or the car with the blue roof ran the traffic light at the corner.
10. After school Raoul went to the dentist and had a cleaning.
11. One of the cheerleaders and Myra won the spirit award.
12. Underneath the car seat, I found eighty-seven cents and a piece of licorice.
13. Computers cannot think; consequently, they will never be a replacement for humans.
14. A hawk circled lazily in the evening sky; moreover, the wolves began to howl.
15. Not only was the semester finished, but Jeremy also did well on his exams.
16. You must choose either the electronic game or a baseball glove made of leather.

Exercise 12

Underline each main clause. Add a comma or a semicolon as needed.

Peter has a great interest in volcanoes; he hopes to become a volcanologist.

1. Volcanologists study volcanoes.

2. They had always hunted an active eruption and in 1980 they got their chance.
3. Mount Saint Helens is an active volcano in Washington but it had not erupted since 1847.
4. In March of 1980, Mount Saint Helens began shaking moreover, its top began to bulge.
5. Scientists raced to Washington from around the world.
6. They knew the mountain would erupt but they could not tell when or how violently.
7. Officials kept people away from the mountain but some adventurous souls went anyway.
8. Mount Saint Helens erupted early on May 18, 1980 and more than sixty people were killed.
9. The destruction to the earth and wildlife was extreme the blast leveled 150 square miles of forest.
10. The avalanche after the blast killed millions of animals and birds.

Exercise 13

Underline each main clause. Place a check in the blank next to each complex sentence.

The game will be postponed because the rain is falling steadily.

1. When it is foggy, driving is very dangerous.
2. Before I start my workout, I always do some warmup exercises.
3. We were surprised when we learned of the arrest.
4. We bought our new sofa during the sale at the local furniture store.
5. Although it rained all day, we still enjoyed our trip.
6. I will help you with your homework after you watch the baby.
7. Jake stared at me as if he had seen a ghost.
8. Whenever the wind blows the trees against the windows, the dog howls.
9. Our choir went on a field trip to the senior citizens' center.
10. Owen felt responsible for the missing book though it was not his fault.
11. The new computer and printer really make our work easier.
12. You can order whatever you want from the menu.
13. We will be on time unless there is a traffic jam.
14. If our team wins, everyone will celebrate.
15. The police did not arrive until the thieves had left.

Exercise 1

Identify each underlined clause as *main*, *adjective*, *adverb*, or *noun*. If the underlined clause modifies a specific word or words, circle the word or words.

adjective Of *Mice and Men*, which is my favorite book, made me cry.

1. My dog lounges around the house wherever she pleases.
2. The years when the Great Depression hit were terribly hard for many people.
3. Did anybody see where that snowball came from?
4. If the school ever sells its old computers, I will
5. I have always liked Eric Clapton's music.

Exercise 14

Underline each subordinate clause. In the blank, identify the clause as *adjective*, *adverb*, or *noun*.

adverb Although they were tired, the basketball team continued practicing.

1. Stacy will meet us at the roller-skating rink unless she has not finished her homework.

2. After she addressed the birthday card, Aunt Rose mailed it.
3. Tom's friend, who is a mechanic, showed us how to change a flat tire.
4. Greg bought the book that Mr. Harkin recommended.
5. That new television program, which aired last night, captured Gabrielle's imagination.
6. What Samdi baked was my favorite dish at the potluck.
7. Though others performed better, no one worked harder than Colleen.
8. Our teacher invited the scientist who made this discovery to speak to our class.
9. Sue will check the luggage before Mom gets the boarding passes.
10. Nashoba is wondering when this city will develop a professional baseball team.

Exercise 15

Underline each infinitive phrase.

Write *S* in the blank if it is used as a subject, *DO* if it is used as a direct object, or *none* if the sentence has no infinitive phrase.

DO My uncle Jerry loves to hit golf balls.

1. She hadn't even learned to turn on the computer.
2. Please don't forget to water the plants while I'm gone.
3. We all piled into the car and drove to the garden center.
4. To say you're not interested seems unfair.
5. This certainly means a lot to my family and me.

Exercise 16

Underline each participial, gerund, or infinitive phrase. Write in the blank what kind of phrase it is: *part.* for participial phrase, *ger.* for gerund phrase, or *inf.* for infinitive phrase. Write *none* if the sentence has none of these phrases.

ger. Lila greatly enjoys planting rose bushes.

1. The news showed pictures of houses destroyed by the hurricane.
2. Would you ever want to go on a two-week trip to Colorado?
3. Taking it easy is my brother's idea of a good vacation.
4. To eat too many desserts is not a very good idea.
5. Rod is playing the piano in the school jazz band.
6. Hearing my dad's voice on the phone, I answered quickly.
7. She doesn't really enjoy working after school.
8. Nicole was wondering which class would be better for her major.
9. In soccer, players use their feet to do almost everything.
10. Thomas prefers swimming in a pool rather than in the ocean.

Exercise 2

Draw one line under each main clause and two lines under each subordinate clause. Write in the blank whether the sentence is *simple*, *compound*, or *complex*.

complex Before they began the concert, the orchestra tuned their instruments.

1. Laura baked brownies for the party, and Chad made submarine sandwiches.
2. Tulips and daffodils dotted the hillside.
3. Ms. Devereaux may teach her class indoors today, or she may take everyone outside.

4. As Shirlene was entering her house, she noticed the puppy had been playing with her slippers.
5. Several colorful boats lined up for the race.
6. The cast will pose for pictures after the performance ends.
7. Isabel and Mai Lin waited for nearly an hour, but the bus never came.
8. The festival preparations were delayed because high winds blew the tents over.
9. When you leave, be sure to tell the leader where you are going.
10. Uncle Dominic insisted that we all try the new Italian restaurant.
11. After the Thompsons sent us a fruit basket, we made them some homemade pies.
12. Brigitta found her lost button while she was jogging through the neighborhood.
13. The trees swayed in the breeze, and the wheat danced in the sunlight.
14. The department store was crowded, but Natasha and her mother were able to finish their shopping without difficulty.
15. Lesharo finished his chores before his brother returned home.

Exercise 17

Label each simple subject *SS* and each simple predicate *SP*. Write the type of sentence in the blank: *simple, compound, or complex*.

SS SP

- simple** Ira lives in Arizona near the Grand Canyon.
1. Brad lost the school election to his friend Janet.
 2. Evelyn finished early because Shirley helped her.
 3. Patricia left yesterday, but she plans to return by Friday.
 4. Victor must decide when he will show the film.
 5. James plans to join Mr. Plant in Kentucky next month.
 6. If Virginia does not arrive soon, they will leave without her.
 7. The change in scenery concerned Rosa, but she kept her feelings to herself.
 8. Lucius moved toward the microphone as the audience applauded his accomplishment
 9. With the assistance of his math teacher, Terence solved the problem.
 10. You can cross the Rio Grande at Brownsville, or you can cross it at Hidalgo.
 11. Gregory asked us how far we would be going.
 12. Many French immigrants journeyed to New Orleans; others sailed to Montreal.
 13. Early on Tuesday Gordon drove to the airport.
 14. Sheila believed that our goals were achieved.
 15. Just before sunset the climbers approached the summit of Mt. Rainier.