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Sentences

What is a Sentence?

A **sentence** is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. A sentence must have a **subject** and a **verb**, but it may or may not have an object.

Subject

Sally
Wendy and Kim
The hedgehog
Maggie
It
Dad
I
We
They
The dentist
The old couple
Janet

Verb

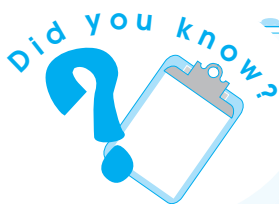
is making
are fighting.
curled up.
is reading
is raining.
cooked
am flying
are eating
are washing
is examining
have
screamed.

Object

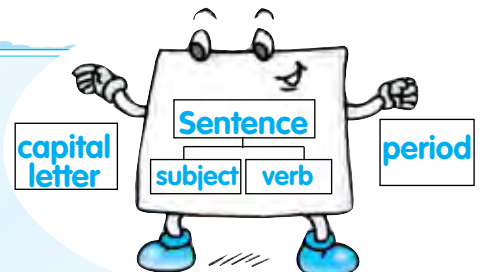
a doll.

a book.

dinner.
a kite.
our breakfast.
the dishes.
Susan's teeth.
no children.



A **sentence** that makes a statement begins with a **capital letter** and ends with a **period**.



Kinds of Sentences

There are **four kinds** of sentences.

- ▶ A **declarative sentence** makes a **statement**.

The children are swimming.
The telephone rang.
Everyone sat down.

Richard is feeding
the hens.



- ▶ An **interrogative sentence** asks a **question**.

Where are the twins?
Are you going shopping today?
What is your name?

What is Richard
doing?



- ▶ An **exclamatory sentence** expresses strong emotion.

What lovely weather!

The silly girl!
How stupid I am!



- ▶ An **imperative sentence** gives an **order**.

Please sit down.
Tell me the truth.
Speak up!

Come back!



The Imperative

Use the base form of a verb to give **commands** or make direct requests. This use of the verb is called the **imperative**.



OK, children, **open** your books to page 25.

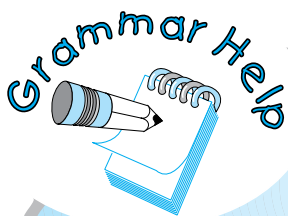
Stand, everyone!
Tidy your bedroom immediately!
Choose a partner!
Eat plenty of vegetables.
Find some nice round pebbles.
Come back soon!
Take a sandwich.
Come and **look** at this, Tom!

Imperatives are a very direct way of telling people to do something. Using **do** or **please** before an imperative is more polite.



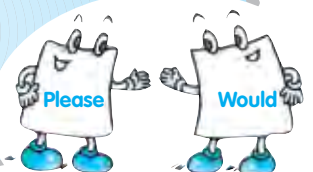
Please come in.

Do sit down.
Do check these figures again.
Please help yourselves to some food.
Please don't change anything on my computer.



You can also use the helping verb **would** to sound polite. For example:

Please **would** you clear the table?
Would you please talk quietly?



Exercise

Look at the groups of words below. Do you know which are *sentences* and which are not?

Put a checkmark in the space next to sentences, and an X next to other word groups.

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Mrs. Chen is a good teacher. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | not well today | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Do the work yourself. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | How are you? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | basic rules of grammar | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | bread and butter | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | Welcome to the National Zoo. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | brush his teeth | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | toys in the box | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | more than one | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | What is the time now? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | Sit down! | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 | Please come here. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 | Mark is sleeping. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 | Open the door. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The Subject and the Object

The **subject** of a sentence sometimes does something to someone or something else.

The person or thing that receives the action is called the **object**.



Dad is cooking supper.



We have built a sandcastle.

Subject

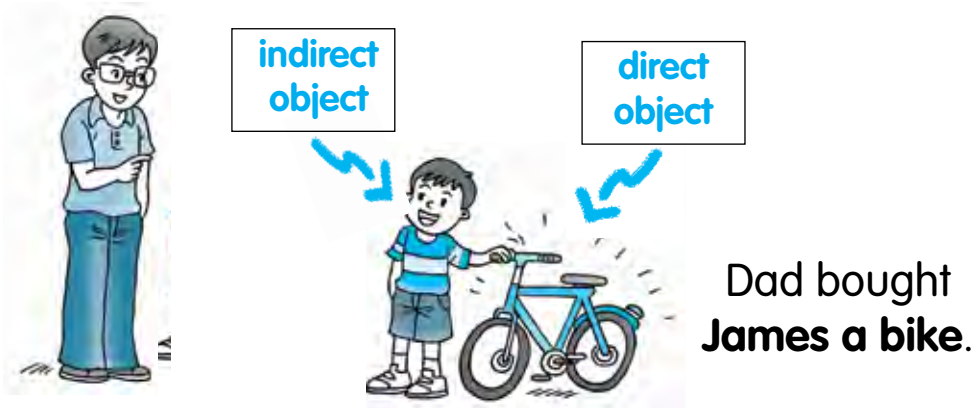
Verb

Object

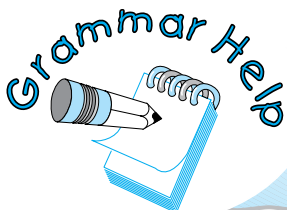
Susan	has bought	a painting.
Hannah	is reading	her book.
The twins	climbed	the hill.
James	stroked	the cat.
Mom	is holding	the baby.
Jacob	is making	a kite.
They	were playing	football.
I	am writing	a story.
Emma	crossed	the street.
You	have forgotten	your umbrella.

Direct and Indirect Objects

Some verbs have **two objects**. The **direct object** receives the action of the verb. The **indirect object** tells to whom or for whom the action is done.



Subject	Verb	Indirect Object	Direct Object
The bank	lends	people	money.
Madison	is making	her doll	a dress.
I	am writing	Grandma	a letter.
Grandma	is reading	Diana	a story.
Andrew	gave	his dog	a bone.
We	left	you	some food.
Joshua	is showing	us	his stamps.
Miss Lee	found	Alice	a chair.



The **indirect object** usually comes before the **direct object**.

Exercise 1

Read the following sentences. Then draw a line under the *subjects* and a circle around the *objects*.

- 1 Anne has drawn a panda.
- 2 They are playing table tennis.
- 3 Little Kate knows the alphabet well.
- 4 Dad bought a computer.
- 5 I am writing a letter.
- 6 Birds have feathers.
- 7 The workmen are building a house.
- 8 Samantha has a pretty doll.
- 9 The children received one gift each.
- 10 Do you know the answer?

Exercise 2

There are two objects in each sentence. Draw a line under the *direct objects* and a circle around the *indirect objects*.

- 1 Dad gave Dave a present.
- 2 Mom is making the children a meal.
- 3 Mr. Thomas bought them ice cream cones.
- 4 I sent Anne a birthday card.
- 5 Granny told us a story.
- 6 The waiter brought the guests their drinks.
- 7 Can I get you a sandwich?
- 8 The police officer showed us the way to the museum.

Positive and Negative Sentences

A **positive sentence** tells you that something is so.

A sentence that tells you something is *not* so is called a **negative sentence**. It contains a negative word like **not, never, no, no one, nobody, none**, or a negative verb like **isn't** or **can't** or **won't**.



Positive sentence

Peter is running.
We should tell the truth.
Everyone is in the garden.
The fridge is empty.
It is very cloudy.
I have sold the last newspaper.
Someone has eaten all the cookies.



Negative sentence

He is **not** walking.
We should **never** tell lies.
There is **no one** in the house.
There is **nothing** in it.
It **isn't** sunny.
I have **no** newspapers left.
There are **none** in the bag.

Questions

There are two kinds of questions: yes or no questions and **wh**- questions.

- ▶ You ask a **yes** or **no** question to get **yes** or **no** as the answer. Use the verbs **be**, **have** or **do**, or any of the helping verbs, to ask **yes** or **no** questions.

Can you swim? **Yes**.
Is it raining? **No**.

Are they coming? **No**.
May I come in? **Yes**.

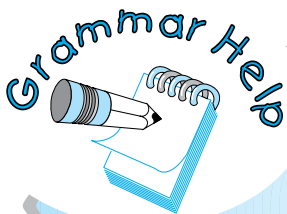
- ▶ In questions, the helping or auxiliary verbs come before the subject of the sentence. When **be** and **have** are used as ordinary verbs, they come before the subjects, too.

Statement

Jim is ill today.
She has an older brother
The cats want to be fed.
We should go now.
It will rain tomorrow.
You may use my computer.
Kate can ride a bike.

Question

Is Jim ill today?
Has she an older brother?
Do the cats **want** to be fed?
Should we **go** now?
Will it **rain** tomorrow?
May I **use** your computer?
Can Kate **ride** a bike?



Here are some different ways of asking the same question:

Has he a sister called Jane?
Does he have a sister called Jane?
Has he got a sister called Jane?

Wh- questions usually include the verbs **be**, **have**, **do**, or any of the helping verbs.

- ▶ To ask for facts, use the question words **what**, **which**, **who**, **whom**, **how**, **when**, **where**. The helping verbs in **wh-** questions usually come before the subject. So does the verb **be** when it is used as an ordinary verb.

Where **are** you?

What **is** David **saying**?

How **did** you **get up** here?

Why **was** the girl **crying**?

Which color **do** you **prefer**?

Who **is** she **going to invite** to her party?

Whom **is** she **going to invite** to her party?

What **is** your problem?

When **do** the stores **open** in the morning?

Where **shall** I **put** this box?

What **have** you **done** to my computer?

How **am** I **going to finish** all this work?

What **would** you **like** for dinner?



Whose dictionary **is** this?

- ▶ If the **wh-** question word is the subject of the question, it comes before the verb. For example:

Who **told** you that?

What **made** you change your mind?

Exercise 1

Write *short answers* to the following questions.

Example: Is he tall? Yes, he is.

- 1 Do you know the answer? Yes, _____.
- 2 Is Sara at home? No, _____.
- 3 Do they know any grammar? Yes, _____.
- 4 Are all of you coming to my house this evening?
Yes, _____.
- 5 Is Mrs. Chen your English teacher? No, _____.
- 6 Can you dance? No, _____.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct question words from the box.

where	when	why	how
whose	what	who	which

- 1 _____ is your house?
- 2 _____ wallet is this?
- 3 _____ are you always late?
- 4 _____ wrote this book?
- 5 _____ of the two boys is smarter?
- 6 _____ size do you wear?
- 7 _____ old is he?
- 8 _____ is Jeff going to get a haircut?