

Types of Sentences Based on Function

1. Declarative or Assertive Sentence

Function: To make a statement, declare a fact, express an opinion, or convey information. It is the most common type of sentence in both spoken and written English.

Key Features:

- It simply states or declares something.
- It can be either affirmative (positive) or negative.
- It always ends with a full stop (.).

Examples:

- **Affirmative:** The sun rises in the east.
- **Affirmative:** Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest playwright in the English language.
- **Negative:** She does not enjoy reading fiction.
- **Negative:** The committee has not yet reached a final decision.

2. Interrogative Sentence

Function: To ask a question. Its primary purpose is to seek information or clarification from the listener or reader.

Key Features:

- It always ends with a question mark (?).
- It expects a response or an answer.
- The word order is often inverted, with the auxiliary or helping verb placed before the subject.
- **Examples:**
 - What is the capital of Bhutan?

- Where did you purchase this beautiful vase?
- How does this complicated machine operate?

3. Imperative Sentence

Function: To express a command, an order, a request, a piece of advice, an instruction, or an entreaty. Its purpose is to get someone to do something or to prohibit someone from doing something.

Key Features:

- It usually ends with a full stop (.). For a strong, urgent, or emotional command, it can end with an exclamation mark (!).
- The subject of an imperative sentence is always "You," but this subject is generally not stated openly. It is understood or implied. This is called the "You Understood" subject.
- The verb is always in its base or root form (the infinitive without "to").

Examples by Function:

- Command or Order: Stand at attention! / Get out of my sight.
- Request: Please lend me your pen for a moment. / Kindly grant me leave for two days.
- Advice: Consult a qualified doctor immediately. / Do not waste your precious time on trivial matters.
- Instruction: Turn left at the next traffic signal. / Add two cups of flour to the mixture.
- Prohibition: Do not walk on the freshly trimmed grass. / Never speak to your elders in that tone.
- Entreaty or Prayer: Have mercy upon us. / Give us this day our daily bread.

4. Exclamatory Sentence

Function: To express a sudden, strong, or intense feeling or emotion. These emotions can include joy, sorrow, surprise, anger, admiration, wonder, or contempt.

Key Features:

- It always ends with an exclamation mark (!).

- The structure often involves the words "What" or "How" placed at or near the beginning of the sentence.
- "What" is typically followed by a noun phrase (often containing an adjective).
- "How" is typically followed by an adjective or an adverb.
- Some exclamatory sentences may begin with interjections like Alas!, Hurrah!, Bravo!, Oh!, Ah!.

Examples:

- Beginning with "What":
 - What a magnificent performance that was!
 - What a terrible tragedy has befallen us!
 - What a fool he turned out to be!
- Beginning with "How":
 - How exquisitely she dances!
 - How unfortunate you have been!
 - How absolutely breathtaking this view is!
- Using Interjections:
 - Alas! The legendary musician has passed away.
 - Hurrah! Our team has won the championship.
 - Bravo! You delivered a truly stirring speech.

Critical Distinction Between Exclamatory and Interrogative Sentences:

This is a common point of confusion. Both types can begin with "What" or "How," but their function and punctuation are completely different. An interrogative sentence asks a question and expects an answer. An exclamatory sentence expresses a feeling; no answer is sought.

- Interrogative: What is your name? (The verb "is" comes before the subject "name." It seeks information. Ends with "?")

- Exclamatory: What a beautiful name you have! (The verb "have" comes after the subject "you." It expresses a feeling. Ends with "!")
- Interrogative: How are you feeling today? (Seeks information about one's health.)
- Exclamatory: How wonderful this place is! (Expresses a feeling of wonder.)