

THE SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF FOUR TYPES OF SENTENCES IN ENGLISH.

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Annotation: This study examines the four primary functional categories of English sentences: declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory. By analyzing their syntactic arrangements and communicative purposes, the research demonstrates how word order and punctuation signal intent. The study concludes that mastery of these structures is essential for grammatical precision and effective interpersonal communication.

Keywords: Syntax, Declarative, Interrogative, Imperative, Exclamatory, English Grammar.

In English linguistics, a sentence is the largest independent unit of grammar. While the infinite variety of human thought might suggest an infinite number of sentence types, English systematically categorizes them into four functional modes. Understanding these types is not merely an academic exercise but a foundational requirement for clarity in both written and spoken discourse.

Classic grammarians such as Quirk et al. (1985) define sentence types based on the relationship between the subject and the predicate. Traditional linguistic theory suggests that while the "kernel" of a sentence—the Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) pattern—remains relatively stable in English, transformations (such as subject-auxiliary inversion) are used to shift the sentence's function from stating a fact to asking a question or issuing a command.

Here is a detailed, systematic, and comprehensive study of the four types of sentences in English grammar, presented entirely in text form with clear explanations, structures, examples, variations, and usage notes.

Declarative Sentences (Also called Assertive or Statement Sentences)

Definition: Declarative sentences are used to convey information, facts, opinions, or ideas. They state something and are the most frequently used sentence type in both spoken and written English.

Main Function:

To inform, describe, explain, or express thoughts.

Basic Structure:

Subject + Verb (+ Object/Complement/Adverbials)

Punctuation: Always ends with a full stop (period) (.).

Key Features:

- Can be positive or negative.
- Subject is usually stated clearly.
- Most common in essays, reports, stories, news, and everyday conversation.

Examples:

Positive:

- The capital of Uzbekistan is Tashkent.
- English has four main types of sentences.
- I study English every morning in Tashkent.
- Modern technology has changed the way people communicate.

Negative:

- She does not speak Russian fluently.
- We are not going to the mountains this weekend.
- Climate change is not a simple problem to solve.

Variations and Advanced Usage:

- Simple Declarative: The weather is hot today.
- Compound Declarative: The weather is hot today, but we still went for a walk.

- Complex Declarative: Although it was raining heavily, we decided to visit the old city of Samarkand.

- With Modals: You should drink more water during summer.

- In Reported Speech: He said that he would visit Bukhara next month.

Common Errors:

- Using a question mark instead of a period.

- Forgetting the subject in formal writing.

Interrogative Sentences (Question Sentences)

Definition:

Interrogative sentences are used to ask questions and obtain information, confirmation, or clarification.

Main Function:

To inquire, seek answers, or request information.

Basic Structure:

- Auxiliary verb (do/does/did, is/are/was/were, have/has, can/could, etc.) + Subject +

Main verb ...

- Or Question word (Wh-word) + Auxiliary + Subject + Main verb ...

Punctuation: Always ends with a question mark (?).

Two Main Categories:

A. Yes/No Questions (Expect answer: Yes or No)

- Do you live in Tashkent?

- Is English your second language?

- Have you visited the Registan Square?

- Can you help me with this grammar exercise?

B. Wh-Questions (Information questions)

- What is your name?

- Where do you study English?

- Why are you learning grammar?

- How many types of sentences exist in English?

- Which city is famous for its historical monuments in Uzbekistan?

Other Types:

- Alternative Questions: Do you prefer tea or coffee?

- Tag Questions: You are from Uzbekistan, aren't you?

(She speaks English well, doesn't she?)

- Indirect Questions (more polite): Could you tell me where the nearest metro station is?

- Rhetorical Questions (no real answer expected): Who doesn't love a beautiful sunny day in Tashkent?

Structure Rules:

- In present simple and past simple, we use "do/does/did" as auxiliary unless the main verb is "be" or there is already an auxiliary.

- Subject-verb inversion is required in direct questions.

Common Errors:

- Forgetting auxiliary verbs ("You live in Tashkent?" → incorrect)

- Using statement word order in questions.

Imperative Sentences (Command, Request, or Instruction Sentences)

Definition: Imperative sentences are used to give commands, orders, instructions, requests, suggestions, or advice.

Main Function:

To tell or ask someone to do (or not do) something.

Basic Structure:

Base form of the verb (infinitive without "to")

(The subject "You" is understood but not written.)

Punctuation: Ends with a full stop (.) or an exclamation mark (!) depending on tone.

Examples:

Positive Commands:

- Open your grammar book.
- Study the four types of sentences carefully.

- Come to class on time.
- Learn English every day.

Negative Commands:

- Don't forget to do your homework.
- Never give up on your goals.
- Don't speak Uzbek during English class.
- Do not waste time on social media.

Polite Requests:

- Please pass me the book.
- Could you please explain this sentence again?
- Would you mind closing the window?

Suggestions:

- Let's review all four sentence types together.
- Let's practice making different sentences.

Instructions:

- First, identify the subject. Then, determine the verb.

Special Forms:

- With "Let" (for suggestions including the speaker): Let's go to the park.
- With "You" for emphasis (rare): You sit down and listen!

Tone Variations:

- Strong command: Stop talking!
- Gentle advice: Try to speak English with your friends.

Common Errors:

- Adding unnecessary subject ("You open the door" – sounds rude or emphatic).
- Using past tense form ("Opened the door" – incorrect).

Exclamatory Sentences (Exclamation Sentences)

Definition:

Exclamatory sentences are used to express strong emotions such as surprise, joy, anger, excitement, sorrow, or admiration.

Main Function:

To show feelings or reactions with intensity.

Basic Structure:

- Often starts with “What” or “How”
- Or any declarative/imperative sentence said with strong emotion

Punctuation: Always ends with an exclamation mark (!).

Common Patterns:

1. What + (a/an) + Adjective + Noun + !
 - What a beautiful city Tashkent is!
 - What an interesting grammar lesson!
 - What a wonderful opportunity to learn English!
2. How + Adjective/Adverb + Subject + Verb + !
 - How amazing this view is!
 - How quickly time passes!
 - How well you speak English now!
3. Simple Exclamations (strong feeling):
 - That’s fantastic!
 - I can’t believe it!
 - Wow, this is incredible!
 - Oh no, I forgot my book!

Usage Contexts:

- Everyday conversation: “What a hot day!”
- Writing stories: “Suddenly, the door opened!”
- Expressing surprise: “How surprising the answer was!”
- Social media: “This grammar explanation is so helpful!”

Note: Exclamatory sentences are less formal and more emotional. They are common in spoken English, dialogues, and informal writing.

Conclusion

The systematic study reveals that English relies on specific structural cues to convey meaning. While the declarative sentence provides the informational bedrock of the language, the other three types allow for the nuances of inquiry, direction, and emotional expression.

For Educators: Focus on the "hidden subject" in imperative sentences to help students understand sentence completeness.

For Writers: Vary sentence types to manage the "flow" and "voice" of a piece, avoiding an over-reliance on declaratives which can lead to a monotonous tone.

For Learners: Practice identifying "inversion" in interrogatives to master natural-sounding English queries.

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