Sentence types: statements, questions, commands and exclamations

Statements tell us something. Statements begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop.

Examples: It snowed today. Monica is a good mother.

Questions ask something. Questions usually begin with words such as *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *which*, *how* and *why*. Questions begin with a capital letter and end with a question mark.

Examples: How old are you? Where do you live?

Commands give orders or instructions. Commands begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop or an exclamation mark.

Examples: Sit down. Stop now!

Exclamations are used when a person wants to emphasise something they say. Exclamations begin with a capital letter and end with an exclamation mark.

Examples: I said you must be quiet! I ate too much!

1. Read these sentences and then write whether each sentence is a statement, question, command or exclamation. The first one has been done for you.

   a) Polish your shoes. command

   b) When does the match start? _____

   c) The school held a concert last night. _____

   d) Listen to me! _____

   e) The room looks clean. _____

   f) You should read quietly in the library. _____

   g) Oh, this is lovely! _____

   h) Watch out for sharp bends! _____

2. Link the sentence in the first column with the correct sentence type in the second column.

a) Brush your teeth!	Statement
b) Did you brush your teeth?	Exclamation
c) We brush our teeth twice a day.	Command
d) She didn't even brush her teeth!	Question

© Oxford University Press Southern Africa

Negative sentences

We use **negative sentences** to say we did not do something or if we want to say "no" to something. We can use *did not* and *does not* to write negative sentences.

Examples: She took an apple. → She did not take an apple.

Notice how the verb changes.

He has to do the dishes. → He does not have to do the dishes.

Notice how the verb changes.

Negative sentences often use the words *no*, *not*, *can't*, *won't*, *don't* or *didn't*.

Examples: No, I don't want to go to the party.
I won't buy sweets.
Yusuf can't write his exam.

The underlined words are negative words.

1. Underline the negative words in the following sentences.
   a) The postman will not come today.
   b) He didn't like the music.
   c) We won't go the party.
   d) No, Lisa doesn't have to listen to loud music.
   e) Our cat is old and can't chase mice.
   f) We can't see the moon during the day.
   g) Josie and Karabo do not like fruit.
   h) She does not have to practise.
2. Rewrite these positive sentences as negative sentences.
   a) Yes, I have to do this.

      _____

   b) Kabelo has to go to the dentist.

      _____

   c) They will watch the match.

      _____

   d) Tina went to the bathroom.

      _____

Help

It is important to use the correct word order when you write a negative sentence.

© Oxford University Press Southern Africa