

Sentence types: statements, questions, commands, exclamations and negative sentences

Statements simply give information. **Example:** The dog is wet.

Questions ask something. **Example:** Is the dog wet?

Commands are orders or instructions. **Example:** Wet the dog.

Exclamations express strong emotions. **Example:** The dog wet me!

Negative sentences allow us to say “no” to something or deny something using the words *no* and *not*. **Example:** I did not wet the dog.



1. Read the sentences below and write what type of sentence each one is on the answer line.

- a) I don't like biltong. _____
- b) Did you polish your shoes? _____
- c) Pass me the ball! _____
- d) You are late! _____
- e) No, I didn't go for a swim. _____

2. Change the following statement into the sentence types below:

The radio has been turned down.

- a) Command: _____
- b) Negative: _____
- c) Exclamation: _____
- d) Question: _____

3. Change the following question into the sentence types below:

Did you clean your room?

- a) Exclamation: _____
- b) Command: _____
- c) Negative: _____
- d) Statement: _____

Complex sentences

A **complex sentence** is made up of a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

Main clauses and subordinate clauses both have a finite verb but only the main clause can stand on its own as a sentence. While a subordinate clause has a finite verb, the clause cannot be a sentence on its own because it is not a complete thought.

Example: I stubbed my toe while I was running down the corridor.

↑
main clause

↑
subordinate clause

1. Underline the main clauses in the sentences below. Circle the subordinate clauses in each sentence.
 - a) We stayed up all night watching films although we were all tired.
 - b) The dogs barked at the gate even though I called them inside.
 - c) The cheerleaders screamed loudly when the relay teams rounded the final bend.
 - d) I will need to get braces if I want to have straight teeth.
 - e) Many parents enjoyed the school play however the principal did not.
 - f) The game ranger drove while we spotted the animals.
 - g) We wanted to see the concert but we arrived too late.
 - h) Because my food was cold, I warmed it in the microwave.
2. Identify if the following sentences are compound or complex sentences. Write the type of sentence on the answer line.
 - a) David did well in his project but Vinesh did better. _____
 - b) We went swimming in spite of the cold wind that was blowing. _____
 - c) Bella and Molly both love chicken but Mpho loves beef. _____
 - d) My neighbour gets angry because I play loud music. _____
 - e) Whenever I get into trouble my mom makes me wash the dishes. _____
 - f) Carlos jammed popcorn in his mouth then tried to eat it all. _____