

# Sentence Variety

Most sentences begin with a subject. Your writing may be more lively if you vary the way you write your sentences. You can emphasize an important word by writing it first.

Compare:

Finally, the bus arrived.

The bus finally arrived.

Tomorrow, we'll be camping.

We'll be camping tomorrow.

## Exercise 1

Beginning sentences with words like the ones below will help you write more interesting, varied sentences. Write sentences that begin with each of the following words. You will need to add a comma, or a pause, after some of these words. Try reading your sentences aloud to determine which require a comma.

1. Silently \_\_\_\_\_
2. Beyond \_\_\_\_\_
3. Intentionally \_\_\_\_\_
4. Yesterday \_\_\_\_\_
5. Avoiding \_\_\_\_\_
6. Unless \_\_\_\_\_
7. As soon as \_\_\_\_\_
8. Above \_\_\_\_\_
9. Whenever \_\_\_\_\_
10. Fortunately \_\_\_\_\_



## Exercise 2

You can also begin sentences with phrases. Write sentences beginning with each of the following phrases. You will need to add a comma after some of these phrases.

1. At the bus stop

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2. Above the clouds

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3. Feeling sad

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4. Coming around the corner

---

5. On the patio

---

6. During the lecture

---

7. Because of the traffic

---

8. Exhausted by the climb

---

10. Without thinking

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# The Four Kinds of Sentences

There are four kinds of sentences: declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory. Another way to achieve sentence variety is by using the different kinds of sentences in your writing.

A **declarative** sentence declares, or makes a statement. It ends with a period.

London is the largest city in Europe.

An **interrogative** sentence interrogates, or asks a question. It ends with a question mark. It often begins with a *wh* word such as *when*, *where*, *why*, *who*, or *what*.

Why is Chicago called the windy city?

An **imperative** sentence gives a command. It can end with a period or an exclamation mark. The subject of an imperative sentence is usually *you*, but the word *you* is generally left out.

Tell me about the trip to Moscow.

An **exclamatory** sentence exclaims, or shows a strong feeling. An exclamation is used to communicate urgency or strong emotion. It ends with an exclamation mark.

I love New York!

An **interjection** is a kind of short exclamation. It usually ends with an exclamation mark.

Wow! More than eleven million people live in Tokyo.

## Exercise 1

Most sentences are declarative. Write declarative sentences as answers to these questions. Make sure your statements are complete sentences.

1. What don't they like about it?

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2. Why is it dangerous?

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3. How will I recognize you?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do they know what they are doing?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Where did she hide the key?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 2

Now write interrogative sentences to go with these declarative sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

He doesn't have enough money.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

You need a tent and a sleeping bag.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

It can't weigh more than forty pounds.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

I bought it a year ago.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

They will arrive after dinner.

## Exercise 3

Write five imperative sentences. Remember, in an imperative sentence, the subject is usually *you* and is therefore omitted.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 4

Now write five exclamations. You may wish to use an interjection in your exclamation. Choose from the following.

Stop! Great! Help! Quick! Yuck! Oops!

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 5

Review the four kinds of sentences. For each word below, write four sentences: a declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory. The first one has been done for you.

### 1. train

declarative: The train leaves at four-thirty.

interrogative: What time does the train leave?

imperative: Take the next train to Riverdale.

exclamatory: Hurry! The train is leaving now!

### 2. tiger

declarative: \_\_\_\_\_

interrogative: \_\_\_\_\_

imperative: \_\_\_\_\_

exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_

3. canoe

declarative: \_\_\_\_\_

interrogative: \_\_\_\_\_

imperative: \_\_\_\_\_

exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_

4. drive

declarative: \_\_\_\_\_

interrogative: \_\_\_\_\_

imperative: \_\_\_\_\_

exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_

5. refuse

declarative: \_\_\_\_\_

interrogative: \_\_\_\_\_

imperative: \_\_\_\_\_

exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 6**

Now, choose five of your own words and write four sentences for each.

1. word: \_\_\_\_\_

declarative: \_\_\_\_\_

interrogative: \_\_\_\_\_

imperative: \_\_\_\_\_

exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_

2. word: \_\_\_\_\_

declarative: \_\_\_\_\_

interrogative: \_\_\_\_\_

imperative: \_\_\_\_\_

exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_

3. word: \_\_\_\_\_

declarative: \_\_\_\_\_

interrogative: \_\_\_\_\_

imperative: \_\_\_\_\_

exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_

4. word: \_\_\_\_\_

declarative: \_\_\_\_\_

interrogative: \_\_\_\_\_

imperative: \_\_\_\_\_

exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_

5. word: \_\_\_\_\_

declarative: \_\_\_\_\_

interrogative: \_\_\_\_\_

imperative: \_\_\_\_\_

exclamatory: \_\_\_\_\_