

# 9: TYPES OF SENTENCES

A Sentence expresses a complete thought and has a Subject and a Predicate. The SUBJECT may have several words but usually the most important word is the BARE SUBJECT. The PREDICATE may have several words but usually the most important word is the BARE PREDICATE or VERB.



The first word of the sentence has a Capital Letter and the sentence ends with a Period, a Question Mark or an Exclamation Mark. Sentences in natural order have the Subject in the first part of the sentence and the Verb in the second part. Sometimes sentences are in inverted order when the Subject is at the end. In sentences that ask questions and start with words like How?, When?, Where?, Why?, What?, the SUBJECT is often found between the two parts of the Verb. When examining the Parts of the Sentence, it is often helpful during an analysis to change the sentence to natural order (Subject then Verb) even though it may sound a bit awkward when spoken.

## Types of Sentences According to PURPOSE

1. Making a Statement (**Declarative**): ► The door is open.
2. Asking a Question (**Interrogative**): ► Why is the door open?
3. Expressing a Command (**Imperative**): ► Close the door. [You] is understood as the Subject.
4. Expressing Emotion (**Exclamatory**): ► Hurry and close the door before the dog gets out! **You** is understood as the Subject.

## Types of Sentences According to STRUCTURE

### 1. Simple Sentences have one Principal (Main) Clause:

- The car stopped on the street.
- The students got off the school bus.

### 2. Compound Sentences have two or more Principal (Main) Clauses:

- The car stopped on the street **and** the students got off the school bus.

### 3. Complex Sentences have a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses. Some complex sentences have missing subordinate conjunctions that are understood such as [which] and [that]:

- The car stopped on the street **because** the students got off the school bus.
- The school bus [which] the students exited had cars stopped in front and behind.
- We noticed [that] the drivers of the school bus and the cars obeyed the traffic laws.

### 4. Compound-Complex Sentences have two or more main clauses and one or more subordinate clauses:

- The car **which** stopped behind the school bus waited **while** the students got off **and** then it quickly accelerated past the bus **which** was moving slowly.