

Remember: Sentence and Sentence Structure

What is a sentence?

In grammar, a sentence is the basic grammatical unit. It contains a group of words and expresses a complete thought.

A sentence consists of a subject and a predicate. For example, in the sentence "*Bill writes good poems*", *Bill* is the subject of the sentence and *writes good poems* is the predicate.

Simple and complex sentences

Simple sentences contain one clause:

- The girl is learning how to drive.

Complex sentences contain more than one clause:

- The girl who is learning how to drive is still twelve years old.
- She faced the whole trouble with courage and managed to solve the problem all by herself.

Types of sentences

There are four types of sentences:

1. **Declarative sentence**
Applicants will be answered in due time. (It makes a statement).
2. **Imperative sentence**
Show me your photo album, please. (Gives a command or makes a request).
3. **Interrogative sentence**
Do you like this photo? (Asks a question).
4. **Exclamatory sentence**
What a beautiful dress she is wearing! (Shows a strong feeling).

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SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Remember these simple rules for positive sentences:

subject		verb(s)		object	
I		speak		English	
I		can speak		English	
subject	verb	indirect object	direct object	place	time
I	will tell	you	the story	at school	tomorrow.

The word order in negative sentences is the same as in affirmative sentences. Note, however, that in negative sentences, we usually need an auxiliary verb:

subject	verbs	indirect object	direct object	place	time
I	will <i>not</i> tell	you	the story	at school	tomorrow.