Types of Sentences: How It Works



Grammar · Grades 2–4

There are four kinds of sentences. Each one has a job and an end mark.

1. Statement

Tells something. It ends with a **period**.

The moon is bright**.**

Also called a declarative sentence.

2. Question

Asks something. It ends with a **question mark**.

Is the moon bright**?**

Also called an interrogative sentence.

3. Command

Tells someone to do something. It ends with a **period** or an **exclamation point**.

Look at the moon**.**

Also called an imperative sentence.

4. Exclamation

Shows strong feeling. It ends with an **exclamation point**.

What a bright moon**!**

Also called an exclamatory sentence.

Which kind is it?

1. **Does it ask?**
   It is a question. Add a question mark.
2. **Does it tell you to do it?**
   It is a command. Add a period or !
3. **Feeling, or just telling?**
   An exclamation gets ! and a statement gets a period.

One idea, four ways

Statement: The dog is barking.

Question: Is the dog barking?

Command: Stop barking, Dot.

Exclamation: How loud that dog is!

In a command the subject is **you**, even though the word is not written: (You) stop barking.

Watch out

A polite command is still a command:

Please pass the salt.

A sentence that **tells about** a question is a statement. It ends with a period:

I wonder where Gus went.