

Sentences

Conventions of Writing

Sentences and Fragments

A **complete sentence** is a group of words that tells a complete thought. A **sentence fragment** is a group of words that does not tell a complete thought.

The rocket. (does not tell a complete thought)

The rocket soars into the clouds. (tells a complete thought)

Your Turn Write each group of words. Tell whether it is “complete” or “fragment.” Write it.

1. My little brother. fragment
2. My father takes a picture. complete
3. The engines roar. complete

Types of Sentences

When you write or talk, you use different kinds of sentences.

A statement tells something. It ends with a period.	<i>My father likes to cook.</i>
A question asks something. It ends with a question mark.	<i>What are we having for lunch?</i>
A command tells you to do something and ends in a period.	<i>Help me set the table.</i>
An exclamation shows strong feeling. It ends with an exclamation mark.	<i>This will be the best meal ever!</i>

Your Turn Write each sentence. Tell what type it is.

1. Can my friend join us for dinner? question
2. Pasta is his favorite meal. statement
3. I can't believe how hungry we are! exclamation
4. Call us when it's ready. command

Subjects in Sentences

Every sentence has two parts. The **complete subject** in a sentence tells what or whom the sentence is about. The complete subject of a sentence can be more than one word.

Rain pours down from the sky.

All of my friends run for cover.

Your Turn Write each sentence. Draw a line under the complete subject of each sentence.

1. Lightning flashes.
2. Thunder rumbles in the distance.
3. A gust of wind shakes the tree.
4. Sheets of rain strike the window.
5. Do storms like these happen often?

Predicates in Sentences

Every sentence has a subject and a **predicate**. The **complete predicate** tells what the subject does or is. The complete predicate can be one or more words.

*The dog **howled**.*

*The girl **will feed him dinner**.*

Your Turn Write each sentence. Draw a line under the complete predicate of each sentence.

1. The cat sneezes.
2. The bird flaps its wings.
3. The thirsty dog pushes his bowl.
4. My friends and I laugh.
5. Did the dog smile?