

CHAPTER - II

Types of Sentences

Look at the following sentences :

1. Mr Anil Mohanty *is* a teacher.
2. He *teaches* us English.
3. He has been teaching English for the last fifteen years.

The verbs *is*, *teaches*, *has*, in the above sentences are finite verbs because they can be changed into past tense forms. The first word in a verb phrase is called a finite verb. On the basis of the finite verbs we can say that all the above sentences have each a finite clause. (A clause has a subject and a verb in the predicate phrase and may form a complete sentence or a part of a sentence.) A complete sentence has at least one independent finite clause. A sentence can be called a 'Simple Sentence' if it has one clause. So, all the above sentences are 'simple sentences'.

Activity - 1

Pick out the finite verbs in the following sentences :

- (i) Nilima has a good memory.
- (ii) He shall not enter the house.
- (iii) We have not yet received the money.
- (iv) He has been studying to pass the examination.
- (v) Ramesh works in a bank.
- (vi) We must obey the rules of the road.

II. Kinds of Simple Sentences :

Look at the following sentences :

1. The cuckoo is singing
2. Is the cuckoo singing in that tree ?
3. Listen to the cuckoo's song.
4. How beautifully the cuckoo sings !

The four sentences given above are simple sentences, but they have different structures.

The first sentence is called a 'Declarative Sentence'. Sentence 2, which has a question mark in the end is called an 'Interrogative Sentence'. Sentence 3 is called an 'Imperative Sentence'. The last sentence is called an 'Exclamatory Sentence'.

Hence, simple sentences can be of four types : Declarative, Interrogative, Imperative, and Exclamatory

A. Declarative Sentences :

In a declarative sentence the predicate is a statement about the subject; in other words, it is a sentence of statement.

Look at these sentences :

1. Cuttack is on the Mahanadi.
2. The cuckoo sings in spring.
3. Anil teaches English grammar.
4. The story appears very interesting.
5. He is going to sell his car after Holi.

The above sentences are declarative sentences. The first three sentences state facts. The sentence 4 states an opinion and the sentence 5 states an intention.

Declarative sentences of different patterns are given below :

(i) SV	:	Subject	Verb (Intransitive)		
		The boy	came.		
		The wind	blows.		
(ii) SVO:		Subject	Verb (transitive)		Object
		He	answered		the question.
		She	will sell		a car.
(iii) SVOO	:	Subject	Verb	Object (Indirect)	Object (direct)
		The postman	gave	me	a parcel.
		The teacher	taught	us	geography.
		The guide	showed	us	the temple.
(iv) SVC	:	Subject	Verb		Complement
		Mr Das	is		a teacher.
		The sky	got		dark.
		He	looks / seems / appears		worried.
		This flower	smells		sweet.
		This pillow	feels		soft.

(v) SVOC	:	Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
		They	found	him	dead.
		They	elected	Mr Das	President.
		This book	has made	the author	famous.
		The result	proved	him	wrong

B. Interrogative Sentences :

Sentences which ask questions are usually called 'Interrogative Sentences'.

Look at the following sentences :

1. Did she attend the class yesterday ?
2. Are you joining the picnic ?
3. What are you looking for ?
4. Who wrote the Mahabharata ?

The first two sentences given above can be answered by saying either *yes* or *no*.

So they are *Yes/No* questions. The last two sentences do not begin with auxiliaries, they begin with *what* and *who*. So they are *Wh*-questions / Interrogative sentences.

C. Imperative Sentences :

Examples :

1. Respect your elders. (advice)
2. Please have another cup of tea. (request)
3. March on, soldiers. (command)
4. Let's go on a picnic. (suggestion)
5. Have mercy on us. (prayer)
6. Beware of pickpockets. (warning)
7. Don't write on the front page of the answer book. (instructions)
8. Shut the door. (order)
9. Have a smooth journey. (wish)

In the above sentences the subject is *you*, but it is not mentioned. These sentences express 'advice', 'request', 'command', 'suggestion', 'prayer', 'warning', 'instructions', 'order',

and 'wish'. Such sentences have the following characteristics :

- (i) The subject 'you' is not usually used.
- (ii) The sentences begin with the verb in its base form.
- (iii) The sentences can be made negative.
- (iv) There is no change in tense, aspect, voice and modality.

D. Exclamatory Sentences :

Look at the following sentences :

- 1. What an excellent singer she is !
- 2. How beautifully she sings !

The above sentences which express the feelings of admiration and surprise are called 'exclamatory sentences'. These sentences begin with 'What' or 'How' and there is usually a mark of exclamation at the end of these sentences.

Exclamatory sentences cannot be changed into negative sentences. One cannot say, "What an excellent singer he is not !" Nor can one say, "How beautifully she does not sing !" But the types of sentences such as 'declarative', imperative, and interrogative can be turned into negatives.

The above exclamatory sentences can be turned into declarative sentences :

(1) She is an excellent singer. (2) She sings very beautifully. Similarly, declarative sentences can be turned into exclamatory sentences :

Example :

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---------------------------|
| Declarative | - | He is very stupid. |
| Exclamatory | - | How stupid he is ! |
| Declarative | - | He is a very stupid boy. |
| Exclamatory | - | What a stupid boy he is ! |

Activity - 2

Some simple sentences are given below. Mention against each, whether it is declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamatory. The first one has been done for you.

Example : Why were you absent from class yesterday ? (Interrogative)

- (i) Abdul is a strong boy.
- (ii) Let us move on.
- (iii) Who told you that story ?
- (iv) How luckily I escaped the accident !
- (v) Don't touch a live wire.
- (vi) Are you coming with him ?
- (vii) Turn to page 25 in your grammar book.
- (viii) Who did you give it to ?

Activity - 3

Turn the following declarative sentences into exclamatory sentences using '**how**' or '**what**' at the beginning of the sentences :

- (i) The weather is very fine.
- (ii) She is a very intelligent girl.
- (iii) He speaks very fluently.
- (iv) She has got a very sharp memory.
- (v) It is a very beautiful night.
- (vi) She has put on a very costly necklace.

Activity - 4

There are some verbs in the brackets. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences choosing the appropriate verbs from the brackets.

(hope, concentrate, make, avoid, take, get)

The examination is at hand. _____ the best use of your time. _____ on your studies.
_____ watching television. _____ the advice of your teachers when you are in difficulty.
Don't _____ nervous. Always _____ for the best.

III. Compound Sentences :

Look at the following sentences :

1. He joined the English Essay competition and won the first prize.
2. You may stay here or go home.

In the above sentences we have two finite *clauses* each. In other words, each sentence has two independent clauses. In sentence 1 the two independent clauses are :

(1) He joined the English Essay competition (2) (He) won the first prize. In sentence 2 they are: (1) You may stay here (2) (You may) go home. In sentence 1 the independent clauses are joined by *and*, and in sentence 2 they are joined by *or*. The first independent clause in each sentence is called 'Main Clause' and the second independent clause in each sentence is called 'coordinate clause'. *And*, *or* in the above sentences are called 'conjunctions' or 'coordinators' or 'coordinating conjunctions'. The sentences which have two or more than two independent clauses and are joined by coordinating conjunctions are known as 'Compound Sentences'.

Study the following compound sentence :

- And : He came and stayed for a week.
- But : He is very hardworking but he is really not intelligent.
- Yet : He is not rich, yet he is happy.
- Still : She did not do much work, (but) still she passed the examination.
- Nevertheless : There was no news; nevertheless, she went on hoping.
- Or : He watches television or goes out to the playground.
- Or else : Work hard, or else you will fail.
- Otherwise : Take care, otherwise, you will fail.
- Therefore : He was taken ill, therefore he could not attend the party.
- Either ... or : Either you leave or I will.
- Neither ... or : He is neither handsome, nor is he smart.
- He neither returned the goods nor paid the bill.
- Not only ... but also : He not only liked the house but also bought it.

- Both ... and : He can both sing and act. (Not used in negative sentences)
- So : I was very hungry, so I wanted to have an early lunch.
- For : He found it increasingly difficult to read, for his eyes were failing.
- Besides : I don't want to go to the cinema, besides I am feeling tired.

Neither ... nor, either ... or, not only ... but also, both ... and are also called 'correlative conjunctions' or 'correlatives', for they go in pairs and are related to each other. These correlatives usually join two alternatives.

Activity - 5

Combine each pair of the following sentences into a compound sentence using conjunctions such as : 'and', 'but', 'or', 'so', 'yet', 'for', otherwise.

- (i) He finished his exercises. He put away his books.
- (ii) He must not be late. He will be punished.
- (iii) Make haste. You will be late.
- (iv) He is rich. He is not contented.
- (v) He was horrified. He saw bloodstain on the floor.
- (vi) He tried hard. He did not succeed.
- (vii) They took every precaution. They suffered from the disease.
- (viii) I have a lot of work. I must do it now.
- (ix) Be good. You will be happy.
- (x) He practised daily. He became an expert player.

Activity - 6

Combine each pair of the following sentences into a compound sentence using one of the correlatives : either ... or, neither ... nor, not only ... but also, both ... and.

- (i) Energy is necessary for success in life. Patience is also necessary for success in life.

- (ii) I have left my glasses on the bus. I have left my glasses at the office.
- (iii) He cannot speak English. He cannot speak Hindi.
- (iv) The boy is very healthy. He is also very happy.
- (v) He does not drink tea. He does not drink coffee.
- (vi) She draws pictures neatly. She also paints them beautifully.
- (vii) The artists will sing for us. They will dance for us too.

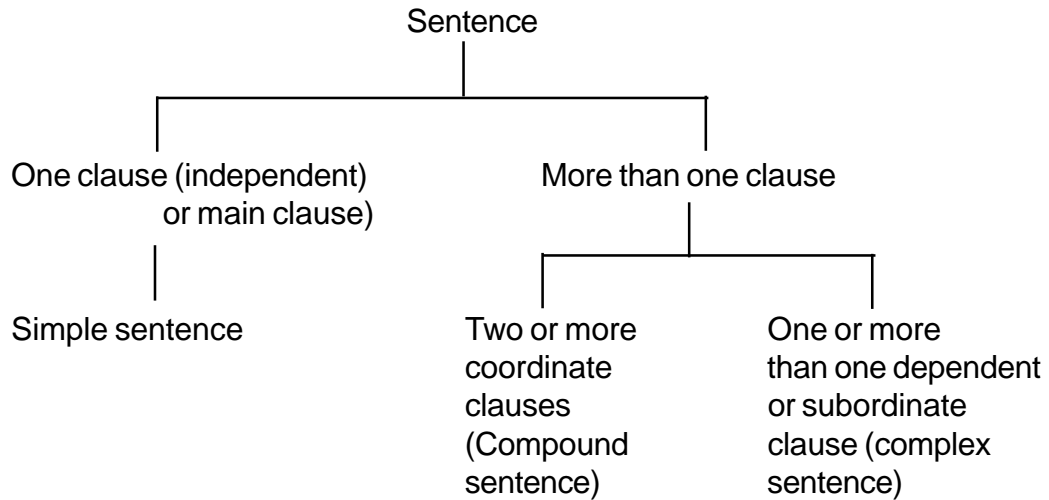
IV Complex Sentences :

Look at the following sentences :

1. I am certain of completing the work today.
I am certain that I shall complete the work today.
2. Tell me the place of your birth.
Tell me where you were born.
3. Hardworking students succeed in the examination.
Students who work hard succeed in the examinations.

There are three pairs of sentences given above. Each pair of sentences conveys the same meaning. But from the standpoint of constructions, the sentences in each pair are different from each other. The first sentence in each pair has one independent finite clause and a dependent nonfinite clause. The second sentence in each pair of sentences has two finite clauses, an independent clause (or main clause) and dependent clause. A dependent clause is otherwise known as a subordinate clause. In the second sentence of the first pair "*I am certain*" is the main clause and '*that I shall complete the work today*' is the subordinate clause. In the pair 2 "*Tell me*" is the main clause and "*where you were born*" is the subordinate clause. Similarly in the pair 3 the second sentence has two finite clauses. "*Students succeed in the examination*" is the main clause and "*who work hard*" is the subordinate clause. The subordinate clauses can be of three types : **Noun clause, Adverb clause, and Relative (Adjective) clause.**

Diagram of different types of sentences:



Activity - 7

Break up each of the following sentences into separate clauses. Mark the main clause as M.C. and subordinate clause as S.C. :

- (i) He would go if you asked him.
- (ii) You should not disbelieve what he says.
- (iii) He found the watch that he had lost.
- (iv) Though he was born of poor parents, he rose to greatness.
- (v) We thought that he was a hermit.
- (vi) A dog that barks seldom bites.
- (vii) The place where Buddha was buried has recently been discovered.
- (viii) It always pours when it rains.

Activity - 8

Study the following sentences from your previous textbook. Write (S) against simple sentences, (D) against compound sentences and (X) against complex sentences.

- (i) I saw that some of the tables had been pushed into a corner.

- (ii) I chose the corner table, seated myself and started skimming through the newspaper.
- (iii) When I had finished my lunch, I asked the waiter about her.
- (iv) The curiosity which I felt about the girl persisted.
- (v) I understood how she felt.
- (vi) Do you usually go this way ?
- (vii) As we drank tea, I talked about India.
- (viii) When I go to that part of the country, I shall visit your brother's grave and write to you.
- (ix) Maggie, take Mr Gupta upstairs.
- (x) I got up and held her hand.

