A Guide for Parents and Carers

By the end of year 2, children are expected to know the difference between the four types of sentence – statement, question, exclamation and command. They should also be gaining competence in writing these different types of sentence in the right context, and should be able to punctuate them correctly.

Statements
A statement is a sentence that simply tells you something. It should always begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop. The subject of the sentence (the thing or person doing the verb action) will usually always come before the verb at this stage in your child’s reading and writing development.

Examples

It is very sunny today.

**subject**

I **hate** eating broccoli.

**subject**

Sam **rode** his bike to school.

Questions
A question is a sentence that asks something. It should always begin with a capital letter and end with a question mark. There will still be a subject in the question sentence. A verb may be the first word of the question.
Examples

Does she like to play football?
Has Joe done his homework?
Will you stop shouting?

Sometimes the question will begin with a 'question word' - who, what, when, why, where, how.

Why are you crying?
Where is Amy's book?
Who put the crayons away?
How are you feeling?

Exclamations/Exclamatory Statements

Exclamations follow two rules: they always contain a verb ('doing' word) and they always begin with the word 'what' or the word 'how'. They also always begin with a capital letter and end with an exclamation mark.

Examples

What big eyes you have, Grandma!
How cold it is today!
Commands

Commands are sentences which give an instruction or an order. They usually begin with an imperative verb (children are taught this name but often also call them ‘bossy’ verbs).

Examples

- Turn off the television.
- Eat your dinner.
- Sit next to me.

A good example of commands is in a list of instructions such as a recipe. In this case, the imperative verb may be preceded by a time or linking word, such as first/next/then, etc.

Examples

- First, weigh out the flour, butter and sugar.
- Next, beat the butter and sugar together.
- Then, add the eggs and mix.
- Finally, stir in the flour.

Sometimes a command may have an exclamation mark, if the command is being given with emotions such as anger or surprise:

- Stop hitting your brother!
- Don’t make me jump!