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What Is a Sentence?

A sentence begins with a capital letter.

Examples:

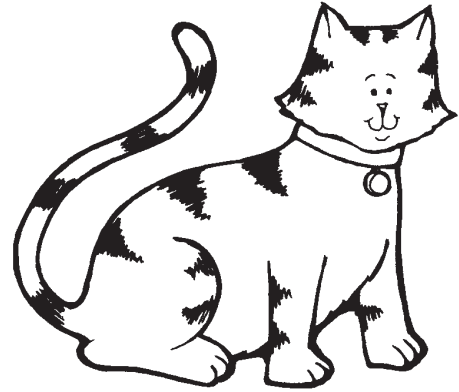
My cat ate my homework.

A big dragon sat on my head.

You wouldn't write sentences like these:

my cat ate my homework.

a big dragon sat on my head.



Sentences end with punctuation: a full stop (.), a question mark (?) or an exclamation mark (!). A full stop should be used to end most sentences. Use a question mark when the sentence asks a question, and use the exclamation mark when the sentence is expressing something very angry, very exciting, very important or very urgent.

Here are some examples of sentences that end with full stops:

My dog has fleas.

I don't eat broccoli.

Here are some examples of sentences that end with question marks:

Did you know that my dog has fleas?

Why did you put broccoli in this?

Here are some examples of sentences that end with exclamation marks:

My dog has fleas again!

I told you, I don't ever eat broccoli!

There is one more thing you need to know about sentences: A sentence is always a complete thought. The following are not complete thoughts, so they are not sentences:

My cat

If I am

Do you want



What Is a Sentence? *(cont.)*

These are complete thoughts, and they have capital letters at the beginnings and punctuation marks at the ends, so they are sentences:

My cat is sleeping on top of the refrigerator.

Do you want to look at the dragon with me?

Now write a sentence of your own. Make sure it starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation mark. Is it a complete thought? If not, what can you add to make it a complete thought?

You have learnt that every sentence must have a capital letter at the beginning and a full stop, question mark, or exclamation mark at the end. Every sentence must also be a complete thought.

Circle the sentences below.

1. all through the town
2. I hate broccoli!
3. Are you afraid of dragons?
4. I will hop on one foot for three days!
5. Are you under the bed?
6. I don't like
7. I saw Tiffany swimming by.
8. Can I cut your hair?
9. This cheese tastes
10. Let's jump on the bed!



Now write three sentences of your own. End one with a full stop, one with a question mark and one with an exclamation mark. Make sure that your sentences are complete thoughts.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Can You Find the Sentences?

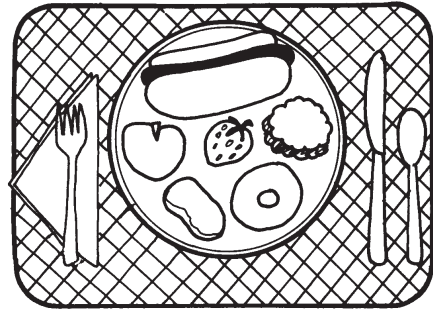
A sentence is a group of words that tells us something or asks us a question. It is always a complete thought. Each sentence is about someone or something. Each sentence also tells us something about someone or something.

Example: John cooks dinner.

This is what the sentence tells us:

Who it is about: *John*

What John does: *cooks dinner*



There are only five complete sentences below. Can you find them? Remember, sentences begin with capital letters, end with punctuation (a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark) and contain a complete thought that tells us about something or someone. Write the five sentences on the lines below.

Chris is making dinner!

telling me a story.

Stop that runaway bicycle!

How about that one who

Do you like apples

Give Jason

I like Mike!

You don't know what

My dog went ice skating.

When I stop.

when will you know?

Tom is washing the dishes.

A big, yellow house.

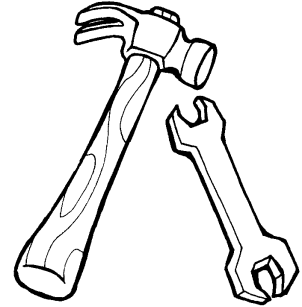
the wind

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Can You Fix These Sentences?

Help! The sentences below are broken! Can you fix them? Below each broken sentence, write the new, complete sentence. Remember to use a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation mark to end each one. The first one has been done for you.



1. can I get a kitten

Can I get a kitten?

2. watch out, kevin

3. i won a prize

4. will you be my best friend

5. in the morning, I will

6. what's for lunch

7. we were taking a bath

8. a giant dragonfly landed on my head



Sentence Starters

Finish these sentences any way you like.

1. Maggie wants to _____
2. Do you _____
3. I wish I had _____
4. Have you ever _____
5. Watch out for the _____

Finish these sentences by filling in the blanks.

1. _____ is a big, hairy monster!
2. Did you say that your _____ fell off?
3. _____ jumped into the spaghetti and then _____!
4. _____ is trying to find _____.
5. A _____ is knocking on the _____.