

**JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**THE SENTENCE PART III**

**Sentence Types According to Context**

In the first part of The Sentence, the student learned the six basic sentence patterns. In the second part of The Sentence, the student learned the four types of sentence structure. In the third part, the student will learn about the four types of sentences according to context or purpose.

1. The **declarative sentence** makes a statement. It should be punctuated with a period (.).

Curiosity is the beginning of knowledge.

The third essay is due Friday.

2. The **interrogative sentence** asks a question. It should be punctuated with a question mark (?).

Did you know curiosity is the beginning of knowledge?

When is the third essay due?

3. The **imperative sentence** gives a command or makes a request. It should be punctuated with a period (.) unless the writer intends to show strength or strong emotion. Then the sentence would be punctuated with an exclamation point (!).

Remember, curiosity is the beginning of knowledge.

The essay must be finished tonight!

Watch out for that falling brick!

NOTE: Many imperative sentences will have the subject **you** understood.

4. The **exclamatory sentence** shows excitement or expresses strong feeling. It should be punctuated with an exclamation point (!).

What a terrific essay you wrote!

How beautiful you look tonight!

NOTE: Do not overuse the exclamatory sentence or it will lose its significance. Be sure to save the exclamation points for sentences which really do show strong emotion.

## Practice Exercise A

Below are ten famous quotations. Punctuate the sentences and determine the kind of sentences they are.

Example: 1. Walk softly and carry a big stick --Theodore Roosevelt **imperative (.)**

1. I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat --Sir Winston Churchill
2. The great hope of society is individual character --W. E. Channing
3. O, that this too too solid flesh would melt,  
Thaw, and resolve itself into a dew --William Shakespeare
4. You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do --Henry Ford
5. What happiness is there which is not purchased with more or less of pain -- Margaret Oliphant
6. What's in a name --William Shakespeare
7. Every man has a right to his opinion, but no man has a right to be wrong in his facts --Bernard Baruch
8. Can anything be so elegant as to have few wants and to serve them one's self --Ralph Waldo Emerson
9. If you do not think about the future, you cannot have one --John Galsworthy
10. An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less--Nicholas Murray Butler

## Practice Exercise B

Punctuate the following sentences and determine what kind of sentences they are.

1. My favorite ride at the fair goes very fast
2. How many times does the moon go around the earth in a month
3. Study your spelling each night
4. Despite its huge body, the rhinoceros has a very small brain
5. Can you give a definition for pandemonium
6. How exciting the trapeze act was
7. Take your dictionary with you
8. Cats and dogs do not learn by imitation but by participation
9. What animals hibernate in the winter
10. What strange shapes the ice takes