

sentences

A **sentence** tells you about an event or a situation. It usually has an actor (a **subject**) and an action (a **verb**), and makes sense.

The tall man runs along the road.

The tall man is my uncle.

These are sentences. They have a **subject** (*the tall man*) and a **verb** (*runs, is*). They make sense.

the tall man

This is *not* a sentence. It has no verb. It does not say what the man does or is.

Types of sentences

There are different types of sentences.

A statement: **The cockerel crows at daybreak.**

A question: **Has anyone seen my keys?**

A request: **Could you show me the way?**

An exclamation: **What a shame!**

A command: **Come here!**

Simple sentences

A **simple sentence** has one clause, with a subject and one verb. It is complete on its own.

The lion growled.

You can add more information about the subject (*the lion*) and the verb (*growled*).

The fierce lion with a magnificent mane growled angrily.

Compound sentences

You can join one sentence to another with a connecting word, such as *and, but, or, so*. This is called a **compound sentence**. Both sentences (clauses) are of equal importance.

It was raining and the lion growled.

Complex sentences

You can add a string of words that contains a verb but which would not make sense on its own to a sentence, for example

when the zookeeper arrived with a pail of fish

This does not make sense on its own. It makes sense if it is joined to another main sentence.

The lion growled angrily when the zookeeper arrived with a pail of fish.

Sentences made like this are called **complex sentences**.