

# Complete Sentences

A sentence must form a complete thought. To be complete, a sentence must have two parts, a *subject* and a *predicate*.

The **subject** is the part of the sentence that tells us *who* or *what*. The **predicate** is the part of the sentence that tells us *what happened*. Read the following sentence:

**The family went to the zoo.**

“*The family*” tells us who. It is the subject of the sentence. “*Went to the zoo*” tells us what happened. It is the predicate of the sentence. This sentence has both parts, so it is complete. If one of the pieces was not there, it would not be a complete sentence.

**Read the sentences. If they are complete sentences, write a “C” in the blank. If they are not, write an “S” (subject) or a “P” (predicate) to tell which part is there.**

Candy is very good. _____	Had to go home. _____
That cute little girl. _____	The gray mouse. _____
He read the book. _____	I drew a picture. _____

Watch out! Sometimes sentences get too long! These are called **run-on sentences**.

**Read the run-on sentence below and then make it into shorter sentences.**

I woke up on Saturday morning and remembered I had chores to do so I got dressed as quickly as I could because it was warm outside and I wanted to play so I had to get my chores finished so I could go outside and play with my friends because they were going to go swimming and I wanted to go with them because I love swimming.

**Read each sentence carefully in this passage from *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.**

**Make sure all of the sentences are complete. If they are not, underline them and write an “S” or a “P” to show which piece is there.**

That night, Mr. Utterson could not enjoy his meal, for he was worried about his friend Dr. Jekyll. Mr. Enfield’s tale of the strange building made him suspect that the doctor was in deep trouble. After dinner, Mr. Utterson. From a safe, he took a sealed envelope that said “Dr. Jekyll’s will.” Opening it, Mr. Utterson frowned. Had left everything to his partner, Mr. Hyde. The lawyer remembered how he had refused to give the least help to Jekyll in the making of the will. Now that it was made, though, he took charge of it.

Had been angered by his lack of knowledge about Mr. Hyde. Now it was what he knew about Hyde that bothered him even more. The lawyer thought the will was madness and had warned Jekyll against it. After hearing Mr. Enfield’s horrible tale, Mr. Utterson.

Now that you know about complete sentences, you need to know about the different kinds of sentences and how to punctuate them correctly. **All** sentences begin with a capital letter, but they don't all end the same!

**TELLING SENTENCES** simply tell you something. They end with a period.  
She watched the rain pouring down outside.

**EXCLAMATORY SENTENCES** show strong feeling or emotion. They end with an exclamation point.  
I hit a home run!

**ASKING SENTENCES** ask a question. They end with a question mark.  
Have you ever been on an airplane?

**Read the sentences below and add the correct punctuation.** Some of the sentences may be correctly punctuated more than one way. For example...

Mark saw a lion. could be... Mark saw a lion! or... Mark saw a lion?

**Add capital letters and ending punctuation to the sentences below.**

do you play an instrument

there are a lot of people in this world

the car went speeding by

he yelled, "Run "

is Erica coming to the party

red apples taste better than green apples

suddenly, a light flashed

Read each sentence carefully in this passage from *Captains Courageous*. Add capital letters and ending punctuation where needed. Use all three kinds of ending punctuation at least once.

“Do you think I *chose* to come aboard your dirty ship Of course I’m happy about being saved,” continued Harvey, “but the sooner you take me to New York, the better you will get paid.”

Harvey pushed his hand down into his pants pocket for some money

“I’ve been robbed!” he cried. “i had over a hundred dollars. Give it back ”

The look on the man’s face changed. His language became strong.

“If I were *you*, I wouldn’t call the boat that helped save you any names. I’m Disko Troop of this fishing schooner, *We’re Here*. disko Troop is no thief and neither is any man aboard. I’m sorry about your money, but a boy your age has no business carrying that much We cannot go back to New York, and we won’t be near land until September.”

“It’s May,” shouted Harvey. “I can’t wait until *you’re* ready What am I supposed to do in the meantime ”

“Listen to Dan and help him,” answered Disko. “He’ll teach you about sea life. i’ll pay you ten and a half dollars a month.”