

Workshop One Supplement. Technical Issues and More Examples

Workshop One introduced six basic sentence types. These types differ slightly from each other but rely on the same basic structure. To understand more about these types, you may wish to gain some technical knowledge about them. For some people, knowing grammatical terminology helps to understand better how language works. The examples below will provide some relevant terminology and definitions. If a term was defined on the Workshop One Handout, its definition will not be repeated below. You should study the examples carefully to develop your understanding of how we construct a complete sentence.

1. **Basic sentence type 1.** This sentence type requires only a main subject and corresponding main verb. A subject names a person, a place, an object, or a thing. A verb names the action that the subject does. The subject is in **bold** and the verb is in *italic* in the examples below.

A: Chickens <i>cluck</i> .	B: The television <i>exploded</i> .
C: The man <i>snores</i> .	D: London <i>is burning</i> .
E: An insult <i>can hurt</i> .	

2. **Basic sentence structure 2.** This sentence type uses a subject, a verb, and a direct object structure. The direct object is said to “receive” the action of the verb. It usually follows directly after the verb. It indicates what or who receives the action. The subject is in **bold**, the verb is in *italic*, and the direct object is underlined in the examples below.

A: John <i>loves</i> <u>beer</u> .	B: Goats <i>eat</i> <u>socks</u> .
C: I <i>brushed</i> <u>my hair</u> .	D: Janey <i>kissed</i> <u>Adam</u> .
E: An insult <i>cannot hurt</i> <u>me</u> .	

3. **Basic sentence type 3.** This sentence type uses a subject, a verb, a direct object, and an indirect object structure. The indirect object indicates to whom or for whom the action of the verb is executed. It can go before or after the direct object. The subject is in **bold**, the verb is in *italic*, the direct object is single underlined, and the indirect object is double underlined in the examples below.

A: Janey *gave* a toad to John.
B: **He** *bought* me a fish supper.
C: **Bruce Springsteen** *lent* me a guitar.
D: **I** *refused* the student a high mark.

- 4a. Basic sentence type 4a. This sentence type uses a subject, a verb, and a subject complement structure. The subject complement renames or describes subject. The subject is in **bold**, the verb is in *italic*, and the complement is underlined in the examples below.

A: **The candles** *are* burning. B: **The wasp** *was* dizzy.
C: **The sky** *was* red. D: **Johnny** *is* drunk.

- 4b. **Basic sentence structure 4b.** This sentence type uses a subject, a verb, a direct object, and an object complement. The object complement renames or describes the direct object. The subject is in **bold**, the verb is in *italic*, the direct object is double underlined, and the object complement is single underlined in the examples below.

A: **The footballers** *declared* their game a disaster.
B: **Janey** *called* Johnny's gift an insult.
C: **Hitchcock** *declared* the shower scene a success.

5. **Basic sentence type 5.** This sentence type adds one or more prepositional phrases to a basic sentence. There are many prepositions, so there are many possible prepositional phrases. The subject is in **bold**, the verb is in *italic*, and the prepositional phrases are underlined in the examples below.

- A: Janey *gave* John a slap on his cheek.
- B: **Janey** *gave* John a slap on his cheek before kicking him down the steps.
- C: **The fiddler** scratched his nose with his bow during the jig.

6. Basic sentence type 6. This sentence type uses a phrase called a verbal join. The subject is in **bold**, the verb is in *italic*, and the verbal join is underlined in the examples below.

- A: **John** *gave* us drinks to celebrate his success.
- B: **I** *drank* strawberry wine to dull my toothache.
- C: **We** *do not want* to go to the pictures.

7. **More examples of complete basic sentences.** See if you can identify the various types of words or word-phrases in the examples below.

- A: She should not have gone on the roller coaster after drinking beer.
- B: She went to the hotel to get changed.
- C: The little girl trimmed her fringe with scissors to straighten it after her mother had given her a haircut
- D: She asked for compensation because of her mother's incompetence.
- E: Her mother refused.
- F: The student got cash before going to the library to return his books.
- G: He declared the fine a disgrace.
- H: He went to the pub to whinge to his friends about the extortionate fee.

8. **More examples of incomplete sentences.**

- A: Sending sparks across the living room
- B: Yet did not take her friend's advice
- C: And wished that his wife would stop laughing
- D: But was determined to spoil the picnic
- E: Although John knew that his drinking would spoil the picnic and make everyone's day miserable