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Unit- III: Grammar:3: Types of Sentences According to Their function

Topic-Types of Sentences According to Their function (Study Notes)

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3. Types of Sentences According to Their function

Sentences can be classified broadly on the basis of the kind of message they convey (function) and on the structure of their clause. When you want your content to convey the exact meaning that you want to convey, you should use your sentences correctly. We can classify sentences on the basis of the number of clauses they have in them. We can also classify them on the basis of their use. Thus, sentences can be assertive, interrogative, imperative and exclamatory depending on the functions they performed.

1. Assertive Sentences:

When a sentence tells a plain statement or expresses an opinion, it is termed as a declarative sentence. In simple words, an ordinary statement is known as a declarative sentence. Assertive (Declarative) sentences are used to make statements in order to give information, report events, express an opinion, or make a promise.

Subject- verb- object

For example,

1. Ajay lives in Aligarh.
2. It rained all night.
3. The man has just gone out.
4. She is an accomplished writer.

A. **Affirmative Sentences:**

Assertive sentences that make a positive statement (for example, saying something is true) are called affirmative sentences. The statements made by a speaker can be affirmative if they declare *what happened, what was said or done*, etc. For example,

1. Kunal *was smiling* at me.
2. The cows *have returned* to shed.

B. **Negative Sentences:**

Assertive sentences that make negative statements (for example, saying that something is true) are called negative sentences. The statements made by the speaker can be negative if they state *what did not happen, what was not said or done*, etc. For example,

1. Ajit *was not smiling* at me.
2. The cows *have not returned* to shed.

- Remember that affirmative sentences are changed into negative ones by adding 'not' between the auxiliary verb and the main verb. For example, in the sentence 'The cows have not returned to the shed', 'not' inserted between 'have', which is an auxiliary verb, and 'returned', a main verb.

- In the case of an affirmative sentence that has only a main verb, the auxiliary verb ‘do’ is used (in its appropriate tense form and in agreement with the person and number of the subject), and this is followed by ‘not’ and the stem form of the main verb. For example,
 1. Vijaya *drives* well. (Affirmative)
Phoebe *does not drive* well. (Negative)
 2. Avinash *likes* travel. (Affirmative)
Avinash does not *like* travelling. (Negative)
- 1. In imperative sentences, the negative is formed by putting the words ‘do not’ at the beginning of the sentence, before the main verb. For example,
 1. *Put away* the crockery.
Do not put away the crockery.
 2. *Look* at this.
Do not look at this.
- 2. It is useful to remember; sometimes contracted form of the negative ‘not’ is linked to the preceding auxiliary verb. It’s also possible to link the contracted form of the auxiliary to the subject noun or pronoun before it. These contracted forms are commonly used in informal and spoken English. For Example,
 1. You *don’t* (do not) understand this, do you?
 2. *We’re* (We are) not amused.

2. Interrogative Sentences:

When a sentence denotes an interrogative characteristic and ends with a question mark, it is known as an interrogative sentence. The sentences which end with a question mark, are used to questions, or make inquiries are called interrogative sentences. They are of two types:

A. Yes-No Questions:

Yes-No questions can be answered with a *yes* or *no*. They always begin with an auxiliary verb (*have/has, may or is/ are/ was/ were, and do*—if the corresponding assertive sentence does not contain an auxiliary verb). If the main verb in the sentence is a form of the verbs be (i.e., *is, are, was* or *were*) or *have* (i.e., *have or has*, but only when the verb is used to mean *own* or *possess*), then it is moved to the beginning of the sentence. The subject of the sentence is always in second position in this kind of interrogative sentence. For example,

1. Ruth *speaks* Latin and English.
Does Ruth speak *Latin* and English?
2. Kevin *has returned* from Russia.
Has Kevin *returned* from Russia?

B. Wh- Questions:

Wh- questions call for detailed and specific answer. They begin with the *wh*-words *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *when*, *where*, *why*, *which* and *how*. For example,

1. *Who* is coming to see us today?
2. *Whom* are you waiting for?
3. *Whose* keys are these?
4. *Why* is the sky blue?

3. Imperative Sentences:

When a sentence is in the form of order, command, instruction or a request, it is known as an imperative sentence. This can end with a period or exclamation mark or a question mark. Imperative sentences are used *to give orders* or *instructions*, *to make a request* or *to give advice*. Although they begin with a verb, the subject *you* is always implied. Sentences that begin with *let* are also imperative sentences, in which the order or suggestion is indirectly expressed. For example,

1. Open the door.
2. Give me a glass of water, please.
3. Stop the work immediately!
4. Work on these exercises!
5. Come at once!
6. Do these exercises

4. Exclamatory Sentences:

A sentence that denotes different expressions like shock, surprise, anger, etc. is known as an exclamatory sentence. This sentence should always end with an exclamation mark. Exclamatory sentences are used *to express surprise*, *pain*, *joy*, *sorrow*, *pity*, *admiration*, and *other feelings*. They end with exclamation marks. For example,

1. Look who's here!
2. How happy I'm to be here!
3. Ouch, that hurts!
4. How sad it is to see you!
5. Isn't this a wonderful event!
6. Isn't her dress gorgeous!
7. Wasn't that a scintillating performance!

Exercises:

Categorize the following sentences as assertive (declarative), interrogative and imperative sentences.

1. Surya is the best student of this class.

Answer: Assertive sentence

2. Do you need more curry?

Answer: Yes- No question.

3. Let the dog be there.

Answer: Imperative sentence

4. Drive slow

Answer: Imperative sentence.

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