

Sentence types - to practice

1. The Basic Sentence - One subject and one verb.

The dog died. Lions roar.

Trees fall. The earth turns.

2. Comma sandwich : a sentence with an embedded clause (which is surrounded by commas).

The sun, which had been absent for days, shone steadily in the sky.

3. The more, more, more sentence

The more he worried, the more he felt uncomfortable, the more he wanted to leave the room.

4. The less, less, less sentence

The less I tried, the less I cared, the less I got.

5. Sentence, comma and list of verbs ending in -ing

The road unspooled on and on, rising, falling, rising, turning, falling.

6. A list of prepositions after a verb

I look outside, down, away, beneath, near the dazzling presents under the table

7. Comparative (-er), more, more sentence

Every day, Kitty felt smaller, more ugly, more useless.

8. Sentences with a semi-colon in the middle to connect two clauses.

Spider-Man was in trouble; he was surrounded by his enemies.

9. No but sentence

True, he had no calm, but she shattered whatever calm there was to look forward to in the future.

10. Three adjective 'of' sentence

I felt full, full of food, full of bad television, full of incessant chat.

11. Colons to clarify

A strange hint of something filled his nostrils and made his stomach lurch: it was blood.

12. Two similes sentence

It could have been Esther's, as black as jet, as dark as the night.

It's hard to describe how I felt - like an object no longer of use, like a parcel packed up in string and brown paper.

13. Distance (closer, nearer, further) / More sentence

The further we went, the more anxious I felt.

14. The size, the (blank) sentence

The bigger they are, the harder they fall.

15. The doubting sentence (end with an if clause)

I had finished the essay, if the teacher was happy with it.

16. The three verb sentence

The monster pushed, crashed, smashed its way through.

17. Not, nor, nor sentences

Nobody, not the postman, nor the housekeeper, nor Jim himself knew how the letter had got onto the doormat.

18. Fortunately / Unfortunately paired sentences

Unfortunately, the door was locked. Fortunately, there was a catflap just big enough for him to fit through.

19. Start with a prepositional (position word - under, by, near, beneath, over) phrase

Under the moon, the river snaked its way to the sea.

20. Never did... ,than...

Never did the sun go down with a brighter glory in the quiet corner in Soho, than one memorable evening when the Doctor and his daughter sat under the plane-tree together.

21. The writer's aside sentence

The computer, **as you know**, is quite slow.

I think, **to be honest**, it will never work.

22. Two -ings at the start sentence

Raising a hand to my brow, shielding my eyes from the rain once more, I saw no monster.

23. So so sentence

There was one item, so small, so unrecognisable, it didn't register.

24. Subject first sentence

Lamp posts and trees reared up at him, splintering his shins.

25. The Big Bad Because sentence

Because it was the last day of term, Martin felt relieved.

26. But none more than sentence

But none more than Tom would agree that smoking is bad for you.

27. Verb **-ed opening**

Wracked with fear, Tommy crept slowly towards the door.

Scared for her life, Anna searched frantically for the key.

28. Whoever/ Whenever/ Whichever two of these...

Whoever had been at the scene, whenever they had been there, it was clear something very sinister had taken place.

29. x wasn't/isn't the word

Disgusting wasn't the word. There were no words to describe what lay before her.

Riveting just isn't the word. There's nothing to say that can do this thing justice.

30. Adjectives at the start sentence

Cold and hungry, Martin waited for someone to take pity on him.

31. End loaded sentence - dramatic ending

After working every day of his life and saving lots of money for his retirement, Tom died suddenly.

32. Not only but also sentence

Not only was he cold, hungry and tired, but the chance of him being discovered would also increase.

33. The deliberation sentence

Sandwich, hot dog, salad - which would he choose?

34. 'It was' semi colon 'it was' sentence

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.

35. Verb followed by detail sentence

He shrugged, heavy shouldered.

36. -ing clause before the main sentence

Having no choice about it, Chris decided to agree with her.

37. However after the first word sentence

People, however, were watching gobsmacked

38. Second Conditional Sentence: It's still possible If I were to.....

If I were to win the lottery, I would buy a Lamborghini Gallardo.

39. Third Conditional Sentence : Also known as the 'Too late' sentence If I had..... I would have.....

If I had left the house earlier, I would have been on time for registration

40. The 'as if verb' sentence

He pulled absently at some grass, as if searching for memories.

41. The as if and three verb sentence

It was as if the cold was pulling at Tansey, breaking her up, trying to take her away from them, back somewhere.

42. Three adjectives at the start sentence

Ruthless, dangerous, lethal, the animal leaps for its prey.

43. It was one of those, one of those when sentence

It was one of those days, one of those when the air was cold and crisp and the birds' melodious singing pierced the air.

44. Almost, almost, when sentence

I was almost there, almost asleep, when I heard footsteps coming, then the sound of someone breathing close by.

45. One simile and three evers sentence

The silhouette standing on the hill, looking out, keeping watch like the North Star at night, ever present, ever caring, ever there.

46. Shakespearean I wish I was.... sentence Would that I were...

Would that I were a glove upon that hand.

47. Repeat and develop ideas sentence

The teacher's decision to set double homework was both surprising and distressing - surprising in that she had never set homework before, distressing in that it was to be completed in one day.

48. I did something twice sentence

I was born twice: first as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974.

49. The Loose Sentence (an independent clause followed by a series of phrases)

It was a happy summer at the zoo, the zebras romping, the giraffes grazing, the elephants trumpeting, and the lure of a drippy popsicle on a hot day beckoning me to the snack bar.

50. The personification, 5 commas and 3 tos sentence:

Harsh white walls frown at the monotone uniformed prisoners, men with bleached faces and no eyes threaten, guns hover, thunderously muted, waiting for someone to move, to think,

51. Start with a simile sentence

Like a ghost caught in a fan, he spun round and round on the roundabout.

52. Using dashes instead of brackets sentence

The roof - the straw thatch - was gone.

53. Or, and, or sentence

They flew in circles, or else there were many of them, and the whole group passed in and out of the light on their way to settle on a rooftop, or on some tree that asked to have its branches filled, at least until winter was as far away as it could be.

53. Without a, without a sentence

Without a how, without a why, Sid fell up towards the sky.