

The Four Functions of a Sentence

Sentences are classified based on what they do. The four types of sentences in English are: *declarative*, *interrogative*, *imperative*, and *exclamatory*.

Declarative Sentence: states an idea and ends with a period. Declarative sentences are the most common type

Example: Hot-air balloons are flown mainly for recreation. Recently, adventurers succeeded in flying around the world in a hot-air balloon.

Interrogative Sentence: asks a question and ends with a question mark

Example: Have you ever flown in a hot-air balloon? Do you think you would enjoy the experience?

Imperative Sentence: gives an order or a direction and ends with either a period or an exclamation mark

Example: Follow the directions carefully. Wait for me!

Exclamatory Sentence: conveys strong emotion and ends with an exclamation mark

Example: She's not going to make that balloon trip without me! I have been waiting for the opportunity all my life!