

# Fundamentals of Writing

LEVEL I VOLUME I





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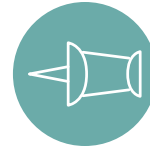
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*Prerequisite  
English Skills*

***Sentence  
Structure***

## *Introduction to Prerequisites*



**G**reat writing skills begin with properly constructed sentences. When sentences are poorly constructed, they are hard to understand and can confuse the reader. Well-written sentences are easy to understand and enjoyable to read. After mastering proper sentence structure, we can then go on to connecting sentences together to form paragraphs.

In Prerequisite English Skills, we will learn how to build each sentence in a way that follows the rules of grammar and is clear to the reader. We will study the parts of a sentence, proper punctuation, quotations, and avoiding run-on sentences. We will practice splitting up long sentences, editing fragmented sentences, and using quotation marks. In Prerequisite English Skills, we will learn how to construct each sentence so that it is grammatically correct and clear to the reader. We will practice creating complex sentences while avoiding lengthy, run-on sentences. We will master types of sentences and proper punctuation.



## Lesson • P.1 Sentences and Fragments



### *What is a sentence?*

A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought.

#### **Example:**

1. *The cat is black.*
2. *Shlomo studied for his history test after supper.*
3. *Yosef went to the store to buy party paraphernalia.*



### *What is a fragment?*

A fragment is a group of words that is incomplete or missing words.

#### **Example:**

1. *The black cat*
2. *Shlomo studied test*
3. *Went to the store to buy party paraphernalia*





### *What is a subject and a predicate?*

The **subject** of a sentence is who or what the sentence is about. It is a noun, which can be a person, place, thing, or idea. The **predicate** contains a **verb**, which is an action word, and tells what the subject is doing.

Every complete sentence must contain both a subject and predicate.

#### **Example:**

Yosef studied for the science test.

**Yosef** is the subject of this sentence, because he is the person that this sentence is about. **Studied for the science test** is the predicate, because it tells what the subject (Yosef) did.





**Tip:** 

Always make sure your sentences contain a subject and predicate, and are not missing any key words. When your sentences are complete and flow nicely, they will be easier for the reader to understand.



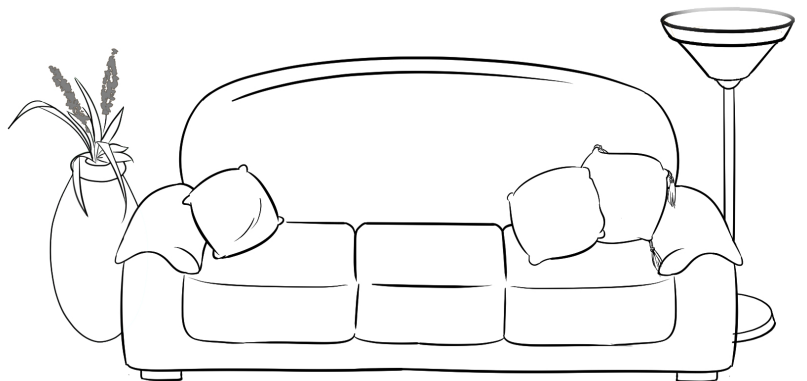
## Practice P.1

Read the following statements. Write (S) for sentence or (F) for fragment.

1. \_\_\_ You don't want to get lost in the desert
2. \_\_\_ The length of my couch
3. \_\_\_ I bought new table
4. \_\_\_ The red book sits on the shelf
5. \_\_\_ The principal walked into a noisy classroom
6. \_\_\_ After the walk home from school
7. \_\_\_ For the fifth time
8. \_\_\_ On the dusty shelf in the basement
9. \_\_\_ Couldn't find the hidden treasure

**B.** Circle the subject of each sentence, and underline the predicate.

1. I bought apple juice and cups at the store.
2. Our class went on a field trip.
3. Mrs. Goldberg went to her daughter's play.
4. The weather in Florida is usually hot for most of the year.



5. This old chess game was given to me by my grandfather.
6. The shiny blue fish splashed happily down the river.
7. My brother won second place in the science fair.
8. Chaim and Yehuda dressed up as soldiers for the play.
9. Five boys in my class stayed up late for a pajama party.

**C.** Fill in a subject for each sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ came home late yesterday.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ was punished for making my parents worry.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ felt bad for him.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was barking loudly and tugging at his leash.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ baked fresh chocolate chip cookies.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ clapped her hands to get our attention.

**D.** Fill in a predicate for each sentence.

1. Moshe \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. His older brother \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Their uncle Shmuel \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. The black, hairy gorilla \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. The bright yellow banana \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. The shiny, red fire truck \_\_\_\_\_ .



## Extra Practice P.1

Write a sentence to respond to each question. (Answers can be imaginary.)  
Be sure to include a subject and predicate in each sentence.

1. When did you eat your snack today?

---

---

2. What is your favorite sport?

---

---

3. Why did you race home so quickly?

---

---

4. What is your pet's name?

---

---

5. How did you get to the airport?

---

---

6. What did you have for supper last night?

---

---

## Lesson • P.2

# Types of Sentences



A sentence must end with the correct punctuation. Punctuation varies depending on the type of sentence.

### Tip:

There are four types of sentences: **declarative**, **interrogative**, **exclamatory**, and **imperative**. Below is a description of the four types of sentences and how they are punctuated.

#### **Declarative sentence:**

A declarative sentence declares or states a fact. It is the most common type of sentence. Declarative sentences end with a period.

Example:

1. *This is an example of a declarative sentence.*
2. *I didn't take a cookie from the cookie jar.*

#### **Interrogative sentence:**

An interrogative sentence asks a question. Every interrogative sentence ends in a question mark. Many interrogative sentences start with one of these question words: who, what, when, where, why, or how.

Example:

1. *What time is it?*



2. *How are you doing today?*

**Exclamatory sentence:**

An exclamatory sentence is a sentence with a lot of feeling and strong emotion. Exclamatory sentences end with an exclamation point.

Example:

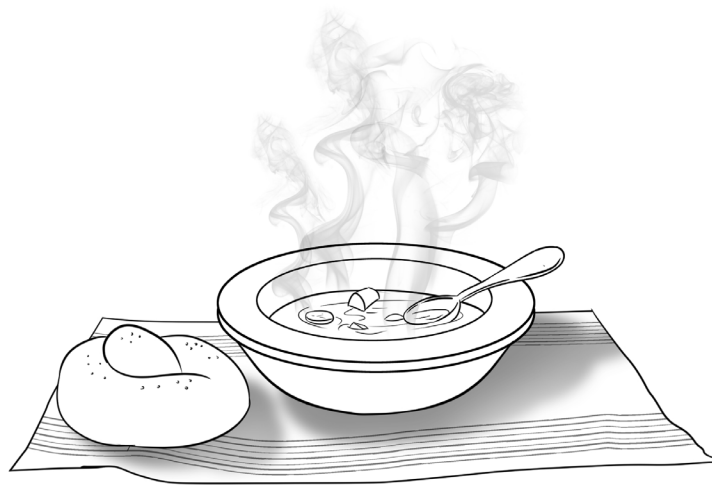
1. *This soup is so hot!*
2. *The drive to the mountains is taking so long!*

**Imperative sentence:**

An imperative sentence gives a command. A command asks or tells people to do things. Imperative sentences end with a period.

Example:

1. *Please raise your hand if you have a question.*
2. *Do not take the train tonight.*





## Practice P.2

**A.** Identify the sentence type (declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, or imperative).

Where do you play on Sundays?

\_\_\_\_\_

I play around the corner in the park.

\_\_\_\_\_

What time is the game scheduled to begin?

\_\_\_\_\_

The game started already!

\_\_\_\_\_

Save me a seat near you so we can sit together.

\_\_\_\_\_

That game was great!

\_\_\_\_\_

When is the barbeque?

\_\_\_\_\_

The barbeque is in two hours.

\_\_\_\_\_

Can you pick me up on your way there?

\_\_\_\_\_

I will be at your house at around 5:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Practice writing the four types of sentences:

Write a declarative sentence about winter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write an interrogative sentence about spring.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write an exclamatory sentence about summer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write an imperative sentence about fall.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson • P.3 Punctuation



When writing a sentence, it is important to use the correct punctuation at the end of the sentence. As mentioned in the previous lesson, the first step for choosing the correct punctuation is to identify which of the four sentence types it is.

**Tip:** 

Punctuation marks tell the reader how your sentences should be read, and add meaning.

Errors in punctuation, including omissions (things left out) or using the wrong punctuation mark, will cause the meaning of your sentence to change, and will make it difficult for the reader to understand what you have written.

For example:

*School will be closed tomorrow!*

*School will be closed tomorrow?*

*School will be closed tomorrow.*

Explain how the punctuation of each sentence changes the meaning.

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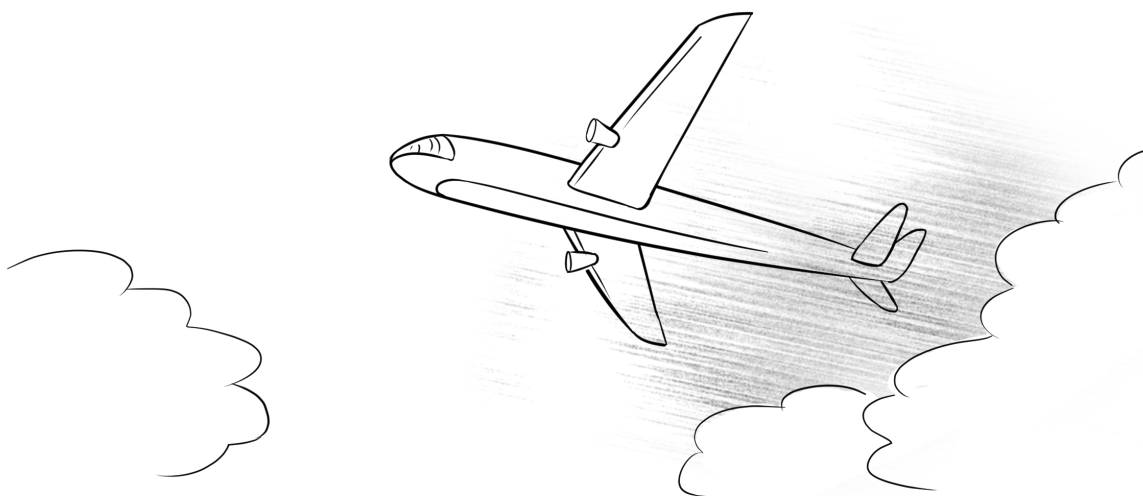
## Practice P.3

**A.** Fill in the missing punctuation marks to complete each sentence.

1. When there is a hockey game, I get to be goalie \_\_\_\_
2. Wasn't this supposed to be kept cold \_\_\_\_
3. That flight was so bumpy \_\_\_\_
4. What day does summer camp start \_\_\_\_
5. Finish the assignment before you start the extra credit questions \_\_\_\_

**B.** On the first line, fill in the missing punctuation. On the second line, identify the sentence type (declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, or imperative).

1. What team is playing this Sunday \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Meir scored the winning shot at the game \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Please come on time to class \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Rochel is the tallest student in her class \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. This is the best class ever \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Lesson • P.4**  
**Review 1-3**



Let us review the skills we have learned so far.

Circle the subject, and underline the predicate.

1. Eli, Tzvi, and I ran to the park before it closed.
2. My family went to the zoo during the winter break.
3. Both teams had to shake hands when color war ended.
4. My cousins live in Melbourne, Australia.
5. Chaim did not sing or dance at the celebration.

Fill in the blanks.

1. An imperative sentence ends with a \_\_\_\_
2. An interrogative sentence ends with a \_\_\_\_
3. An exclamatory sentence ends with a \_\_\_\_
4. A declarative sentence ends with a \_\_\_\_

