

Sentence Types

Type	Form	Examples	Notes
1. Two-adjective beginnings	[adjective], [adjective] subject predicate	Tall, handsome lifeguards flirt wildly with the pretty girls.	This form has a comma between the two adjectives
	[adjective] and [adjective], subject predicate	Rickety and dilapidated , the old schoolhouse didn't stand a chance in an earthquake.	This form has "and" between the two adjectives, but it has a comma after the second adjective.
2. "-ing" at the beginning	[verb-ing phrase], subject predicate	Running like the wind , Forrest Gump made national headline news. Saving the best for last , Lisa finally ate her Reese's peanut butter cup.	The "-ing" phrase at the beginning <i>must</i> modify the subject!
3. "-ing" at the end	Subject predicate, [verb-ing phrase]	He trudged along the hot desert for days, wishing he had brought more water . Sandy gave the homeless man all the money she had, hoping that her small act of kindness might bring him some comfort .	The "-ing" phrase at the end <i>must</i> modify why or how the sentence was done. If it modifies the subject, move it to the beginning of the sentence.
4. "-ly" at the beginning	[Adverb (ly)], subject verb	Cheerfully , she answered the phone for her mother.	The adverb modifies the main verb of the sentence.
	[Adverb (ly)] [verb-ing phrase], subject predicate	Slowly opening the door , the servant tried not to wake his master.	This is a combination of type 2. and 4. sentences. In essence, we're adding an adverb to type 2. sentences. The adverb modifies the [verb-ing] form, not the main verb of the sentence.
5. Informative interrupters (appositives)	Pronoun/noun, [something renaming/modifying the noun/pronoun], rest of sentence	The fish, a slimy mass of flesh , felt the alligator's giant teeth sink into him as he struggled to swim away. The child, face covered with chocolate doughnut , asked his mother if he could have some milk.	This informative interrupter can appear anywhere in the sentence, but it's most effective to add additional information about the subject.
6. Balanced sentences		He runs onto the baseball field, spins around second base, and looks back at the academy . Choosing a Christmas tree, putting up Christmas lights, and baking Christmas cookies are all included in my December traditions.	This sentence uses repeating patterns to create a sense of balance. Notice that the first sentence has a lot of similar verbs; the second sentence begins with a lot of verb-ing phrases.
7. Multiple-verb sentences	Subject [verb] and [verb] Subject [verb], [verb], and [verb]	The teacher stood at the front of the room and gave examples of different types of sentences. The students paid attention, took notes, and tried the new sentences.	The subject is doing both actions. You don't need a comma unless there are three actions (as in the second example). This is a form of balanced sentences.

8. Dependent clauses		Because it rained , the garden party was postponed. Since the road construction is complete , Jim can make it home in only ten minutes.	
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			