

SECTION C - Syntax

1 Syntax

i Syntax is the study of how words are put together to make meaning.

A. Tick the box if the group of words makes sense and put in a cross for the ones that don't.

Beach for swimming.

I love to swim.

Cold sea too for swimming.

The beach is swimming a great.



All these words make sense. What stopped the groups of words from making sense was that they didn't follow the rules of **syntax**. These rules tell us the order of words in a phrase, clause or sentence. They also tell us what word classes are needed and how they combine with each other.

2 Sentence

i A **sentence** is a group of words that makes sense on its own.

Which of these are complete sentences?

A. Put a tick in the first box if the words make a complete sentence, a cross if they don't.

1. Mum loves me.



2. The T.V. is.

3. Watch you where.

4. The meal is tasty.

5. Are you coming?

6. I could've come if you'd asked.

7. Beside the glass jar.

8. Over the top is.

i A sentence is a group of words which

1. includes a verb (see pgs 20-25)
2. has a subject (the person or thing that does the action of the verb)
3. makes sense on its own.

B. Now go back to the groups of words in the last activity. In the second box put an **S** if it was a sentence. If it wasn't a sentence put the number from the **i** box that gives the reason why it wasn't a sentence. For example, if it has no verb, you would write 1. You may write more than one number.

C. For each of these sentences, underline the verb(s) and highlight the subject(s). There could be more than one. The first one has been done for you. Remember that subjects and verbs can be made up of more than one word.

1. The **dog** barked.

2. The dog barked loudly.

3. The dog barked loudly right by my ear.

4. When we came in the dog licked our faces.

5. Our Alsatian dog loves playing with us.

6. Suddenly our dog chased the cat across the lawn.

7. We watched the dog.

8. The dog leapt all over us.

9. The dog is a golden retriever.

10. This dog lives next door.

11. Rover is watching us eat our sandwiches.

12. Rover has eaten all our leftovers.



A sentence can be

- a statement e.g. *The book is on the table.*
- a question e.g. *Where is the book?*
- a command e.g. *Open the door.* The subject is “understood” in commands – it is *you*.



D. Underline the subject of each of these sentences and **highlight the type** of sentence it is. The first one is done for you. (See p30 if you need help with *subject*; see ⓘ box above for help with *types of sentences*.)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Where are <u>you</u> going? | statement / question / command / exclamation |
| 2. Give me that now! | statement / question / command / exclamation |
| 3. Watch out! | statement / question / command / exclamation |
| 4. I hope you've got enough money. | statement / question / command / exclamation |
| 5. That's not fair! | statement / question / command / exclamation |
| 6. What colour is his hair? | statement / question / command / exclamation |
| 7. When did you learn to swim? | statement / question / command / exclamation |
| 8. I enjoy skateboarding. | statement / question / command / exclamation |



E. Write your own example of each type of sentence.

- A statement - _____

- A question - _____

- A command - _____

- An exclamation - _____

3 Longer Sentence



All sentences must have at least one subject and at least one verb. But they can be longer than that. We can add on extra verbs, extra groups of words and even extra subjects.



A. Highlight or underline the verbs in each of these longer sentences. There will be more than one verb or verb group in each of them. **Draw a line from each verb or verb group back to its subject.** The first one has been done for you.

- Although I enjoy watching television, I prefer playing outside.
- I won a prize because I gave the right answer.
- Even though I looked everywhere, I couldn't find my shoes.
- You have to get to the airport on time if you want to meet the plane.
- While I was walking home from school I saw an ambulance.
- My favourite fruits are peaches and strawberries but I also like apples.
- Unless you go to school this morning, you can't go to sports practice this afternoon.
- My aunt, Sally Townsend, is a nurse and she works at Starship Hospital.

