

CHAPTER 11: THE SENTENCE

CLASSIFYING SENTENCES BY PURPOSE

11o Sentences may be classified as *declarative*, *imperative*, *interrogative*, or *exclamatory*.

(1) A *declarative* sentence makes a statement. All declarative sentences are followed by periods.

EXAMPLE The famous painter Arshile Gorky was born in Armenia in 1904.

(2) An *imperative* sentence gives a command or makes a request. Imperative sentences are usually followed by periods. Very strong commands, however, may be followed by exclamation points.

EXAMPLES Please shut the window.
Don't swim alone.
Watch out for the sharks!

Notice that a command or request has the understood subject *you*.

(3) An *interrogative* sentence asks a question. Interrogative sentences are followed by question marks.

EXAMPLE What is your favorite poem?

(4) An *exclamatory* sentence expresses strong feeling. Exclamatory sentences are always followed by exclamation points.

EXAMPLES That car is rolling down the hill!
What an incredible race that was!
I can't believe I won a trip to Paris!