

Ask or Tell

Reviewing Sentences That Ask or Tell

Reading and Discussion

What is a sentence? A sentence is a group of words that makes complete sense, expressing a thought or idea. A sentence needs two things:

1. a **subject**: who or what does the action;
2. a **predicate**: what the subject does.

There are four kinds of sentences:

1. **Telling sentences** or **statements** tell us something.
2. **Command sentences** command someone or something to do something.
3. **Exclamatory sentences** show excitement.
4. **Asking sentences** or **questions** ask something.

Telling Sentences and **Asking sentences** are easily confused. Look for these clues:

An asking sentence usually begins with a word that asks a question, such as: **who**, **what**, **when**, **where** or **why**. Other words like **is**, **should**, **could**, **does**, and **did** may also begin a question. Asking sentences should always end with a **question mark**. This is a punctuation mark to let the reader know the sentence is asking a question.

A telling sentence, or statement can begin with any word but, like all the other sentences, it must begin with a **capital letter**. All sentences must begin with a capital letter. A telling sentence ends with a **period**. This is a punctuation mark that signals the end of the sentence. Sometimes, a telling sentence begins with an asking word. Don't be fooled. If the sentence does not ask a question, it is not an asking sentence.

- When the train came in, we gave the conductor our tickets.

The word, **when**, usually begins an asking sentence, but the sentence above does not ask a question. It tells something. It states a fact. It is a telling sentence.

- When will the train come in?

In the sentence above, **when** is used to ask a question. If the sentence asks a question, it is an asking sentence. If the sentence tells a fact, it is a telling sentence.

Name _____

Date _____

Activities

Activity A: Asking or telling? If the sentence asks a question, put an A on the blank line. If the sentence tells a fact, put a T on the blank line.

1. _____ John returned the library book.
2. _____ Did James return his library book?
3. _____ When we visit the library, I take out four books.
4. _____ How often do you visit the library?
5. _____ Should you always take good care of your books?
6. _____ When will our class visit the library?
7. _____ Is Tom Sawyer your favorite book?
8. _____ Where would I find a book on astronomy?
9. _____ Maryanne reads a book every day.
10. _____ The library is my favorite place to read.

Activity B: The sentences below are missing their punctuation. Do they need a period or a question mark? Place the proper punctuation after each sentence.

1. When spring comes, we play baseball
2. Will we play baseball when spring comes
3. Ted used his new bat for the game
4. Do you enjoy watching a baseball game
5. Who is your favorite major league team
6. My favorite team is the Cardinals
7. How often do you play baseball

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Key

Activity A

1. T John returned the library book.
2. A Did James return his library book?
3. T When we visit the library, I take out four books.
4. A How often do you visit the library?
5. A Should you always take good care of your books?
6. A When will our class visit the library?
7. A Is Tom Sawyer your favorite book?
8. A Where would I find a book on astronomy?
9. T Maryanne reads a book every day.
10. T The library is my favorite place to read.

Activity B

1. When spring comes, we play baseball.
2. Will we play baseball when spring comes?
3. Ted used his new bat for the first game.
4. Do you enjoy watching a baseball game?
5. Who is your favorite major league team?
6. My favorite team is the Cardinals.
7. How often do you play baseball?