

Sentences



classified by *purpose*

4 purposes

Declarative: makes a statement or a declaration

Chocolate is delicious.

Imperative: used to command or request

I want more chocolate now. Ummmmm, I mean: Please get me chocolate.

Interrogative: poses a question

Do you like chocolate, too?

Exclamatory: exclaims something; expresses a strong or heightened emotion

You must! Chocolate is the best treat ever!

FAQ....

How can I tell the difference between a declarative sentence, an imperative sentence, and an exclamatory one?

Well, part of this is writer's choice. An exclamatory sentence is a more forceful version of a declarative statement, and is meant to convey excitement or another emotion.

So: Shut the window. (imperative because you are making a request) vs. Shut the window, there's a bear! (exclamatory because you are panicked about bear-attack).

What does this look like on your test?

When you are confused, consider the whole sentence (for clues) and evaluate the purpose of the sentence. Does it NEED to be exclamatory? Under what conditions would it be so?