

Sentence types and illocutionary forces

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Stanford Linguistics

Linguist 130a/230a: Introduction to semantics and pragmatics



Sentence types

Sentence types

| Sentence type | Examples |
|----------------------|-----------------|
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| Sentence type | Examples |
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| | |
|-------------|--|
| Declarative | |
|-------------|--|

Sentence types



| Sentence type | Examples |
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| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. |
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| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. |

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| Declarative | <p>Turtles are amazing.</p> <p>I wonder where Kim is.</p> <p>You should move your bicycle.</p> |



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| Interrogative | |

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| Imperative | |

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| Imperative | Have a cookie. |
| | Move your bicycle! |

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| | Move your bicycle! |
| | Rain! |
| Exclamative | |

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| | What big eyes you have! |

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| | What day is today? |
| | What on earth are you doing? |
| Imperative | Have a cookie. |
| | Move your bicycle! |
| | Rain! |
| Exclamative | What a day! |
| | What big eyes you have! |
| | Boy, is she ever smart! |

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Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

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Things you can do with words:

- assert

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
- question

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
- question
- exclaim

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
- question
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- threaten

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
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- promise

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
- question
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- promise
- apologize

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
- question
- exclaim
- threaten
- promise
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- command

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
- question
- exclaim
- threaten
- promise
- apologize
- command
- warn

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
- suggest
- question
- exclaim
- threaten
- promise
- apologize
- command
- warn

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
- suggest
- question
- request
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- command
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Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

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- question
- exclaim
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- promise
- apologize
- command
- warn
- suggest
- request
- wager

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
- question
- exclaim
- threaten
- promise
- apologize
- command
- warn
- suggest
- request
- wager
- object

Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
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- exclaim
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Illocutionary force

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Illocutionary force

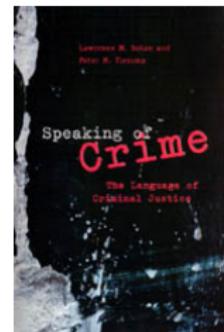
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Relating sentence type to illocutionary force

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Sentence type

Examples

Force

Relating sentence type to illocutionary force

| Sentence type | Examples | Force |
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| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. | assertion |

Relating sentence type to illocutionary force

| Sentence type | Examples | Force |
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| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. | assertion question |

Relating sentence type to illocutionary force

| Sentence type | Examples | Force |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle. | assertion question suggestion |

Relating sentence type to illocutionary force

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| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle. You can have a cookie. | assertion question suggestion invitation |

Relating sentence type to illocutionary force

| Sentence type | Examples | Force |
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| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle. You can have a cookie. It would be a shame if something happened to your store. | assertion question suggestion invitation threat |

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| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle. You can have a cookie. It would be a shame if something happened to your store. | assertion question suggestion invitation threat |
| Interrogative | Is today Tuesday? | question |

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| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle. You can have a cookie. It would be a shame if something happened to your store. | assertion question suggestion invitation threat |
| Interrogative | Is today Tuesday? What day is today? | question question |

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| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle. You can have a cookie. It would be a shame if something happened to your store. | assertion question suggestion invitation threat |
| Interrogative | Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing? | question question accusation |

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| Declarative | Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle. You can have a cookie. It would be a shame if something happened to your store. | assertion question suggestion invitation threat |
| Interrogative | Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing? Do you want to have ice-cream? | question question accusation invitation |

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| Imperative | Move your bicycle! | command |

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| Imperative | <p>Move your bicycle!</p> | command |
| | <p>Have a cookie.</p> | invitation |
| | <p>Rain!</p> | plea |
| | <p>Get well soon!</p> | well-wish |
| | <p>Turn right here.</p> | request |

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Sentence-type conventions

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Cleo Condoravdi



Sven Lauer

Sentence-type conventions

Declarative convention

If a speaker S utters a declarative sentence with propositional content p , then S thereby commits to acting as though she believes p .

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Declarative convention

If a speaker S utters a declarative sentence with propositional content p , then S thereby commits to acting as though she believes p .

Turtles are amazing.

assertion

Sentence-type conventions

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I wonder where Kim is.

question

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You can have a cookie.

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suggestion

You can have a cookie.

invitation

It would be a shame if something
happened to your store.

threat

Sentence-type conventions

Imperative convention

If a speaker S utters an imperative with content p , then S thereby commits to having an effective preference for p .

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Move your bicycle! **command**

Sentence-type conventions

Imperative convention

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Move your bicycle! **command**

Have a cookie. **invitation**

Sentence-type conventions

Imperative convention

If a speaker S utters an imperative with content p , then S thereby commits to having an effective preference for p .

Move your bicycle! **command**

Have a cookie. **invitation**

Get well soon! **well-wish**

Sentence-type conventions

Imperative convention

If a speaker S utters an imperative with content p , then S thereby commits to having an effective preference for p . Text

Move your bicycle! **command**

Have a cookie. **invitation**

Get well soon! **well-wish**

Turn right here. **request**

Sentence-type conventions

Imperative convention

If a speaker S utters an imperative with content p , then S thereby commits to having an effective preference for p .

Move your bicycle! **command**

Have a cookie. **invitation**

Get well soon! **well-wish**

Turn right here. **request**

Rain! **plea**

Sentence-type conventions

Interrogative convention

If a speaker S utters an interrogative with content Q , then S thereby commits to a preference for the hearer to commit himself to acting as though he believes an answer to Q .

Sentence-type conventions

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Is today Tuesday?

question

Sentence-type conventions

Interrogative convention

If a speaker S utters an interrogative with content Q , then S thereby commits to a preference for the hearer to commit himself to acting as though he believes an answer to Q .

Is today Tuesday?

question

What day is today?

question

Sentence-type conventions

Interrogative convention

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Is today Tuesday?

question

What day is today?

question

What on earth are you doing?

accusation

Sentence-type conventions

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Is today Tuesday?

question

What day is today?

question

What on earth are you doing?

accusation

Do you want to have ice-cream?

invitation

Sentence-type conventions

Interrogative convention

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Is today Tuesday?

question

What day is today?

question

What on earth are you doing?

accusation

Do you want to have ice-cream?

invitation

Could you help me?

request