

# 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 types

## Sentence type

## Examples

Declarative

# Sentence types



## Sentence type

## Examples

Declarative

Turtles are amazing.

# Sentence types

## **Sentence type**

## **Examples**

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Declarative

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I wonder where Kim is.

You should move your bicycle.





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Interrogative	

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Interrogative	Is today Tuesday?

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Sentence type	Examples
Declarative	Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle.
Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? What day is today?

# Sentence types

Sentence type	Examples
Declarative	Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle.
Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing?

# Sentence types

Sentence type	Examples
Declarative	Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle.
Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing?
Imperative	

# Sentence types

Sentence type	Examples
Declarative	Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle.
Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing?
Imperative	Have a cookie.



# Sentence types

Sentence type	Examples
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Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing?
Imperative	Have a cookie.



# Sentence types

Sentence type	Examples
Declarative	Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle.
Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing?
Imperative	Have a cookie. Move your bicycle!

# Sentence types

Sentence type	Examples
Declarative	Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle.
Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing?
Imperative	Have a cookie. Move your bicycle! Rain!

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Declarative	Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle.
Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing?
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Exclamative	

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Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing?
Imperative	Have a cookie. Move your bicycle! Rain!
Exclamative	What a day!

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Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? 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!

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Sentence type	Examples
Declarative	Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle.
Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? 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!

# Sentence types

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Declarative	Turtles are amazing. I wonder where Kim is. You should move your bicycle.
Interrogative	Is today Tuesday? What day is today? What on earth are you doing?
Imperative	Have a cookie. Move your bicycle! Rain!

# Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:



# Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert

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Things you can do with words:

- assert
- question

# Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

- assert
- question
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Things you can do with words:

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- apologize

# Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

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

# Illocutionary force

Things you can do with words:

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

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Things you can do with words:

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Things you can do with words:

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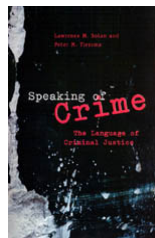
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# Relating sentence type to illocutionary force



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**Sentence type**

**Examples**

**Force**

# Relating sentence type to illocutionary force

## Sentence type

## Examples

## Force

Declarative

Turtles are amazing.

assertion

# Relating sentence type to illocutionary force

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

## Relating sentence type to illocutionary force

Sentence type	Examples	Force
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	You should move your bicycle.	suggestion

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# Sentence-type conventions

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Cleo Condoravdi



Sven Lauer



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## Declarative convention

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Turtles are amazing.

**assertion**

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You should move your bicycle.

**suggestion**

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**suggestion**

You can have a cookie.

**invitation**

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**assertion**

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**question**

You should move your bicycle.

**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

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**

# 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  $Q$ .



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Is today Tuesday?

**question**

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Is today Tuesday?

**question**

What day is today?

**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**

What on earth are you doing?

**accusation**

# 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**

What on earth are you doing?

**accusation**

Do you want to have ice-cream?

**invitation**

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## 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**

What on earth are you doing?

**accusation**

Do you want to have ice-cream?

**invitation**

Could you help me?

**request**