

The background features a large, faded watermark of the University of Basrah logo. The logo is circular and contains a central emblem of a palm tree above an open book. The text 'جامعة البصرة' (University of Basrah) is written in Arabic at the bottom, and 'COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR HUMAN SCIENCES' is written in English at the bottom. The years '1975' and '1970' are also visible on the left and right sides of the logo respectively.

**English Grammar**  
**Fourth Year**  
**2021-2022**

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# **Week 4: The Simple Sentence**

## **Lecture No. 12:**

- **Negation of Modal Auxiliaries**
  - **Sentence Types**
  - **Discourse Functions**

# Negation of Modal Auxiliaries

The scope of negation may or may not include the meaning of the modal auxiliaries. We therefore distinguish between AUXILIARY NEGATION and MAIN VERB NEGATION. The contrast is shown in the two following sentences with may not, where the paraphrases indicate the scope of negation:

**AUXILIARY NEGATION: (Permission)**

**You may not smoke in here. ['You are not allowed to smoke in here.']**

**MAIN VERB NEGATION: (Possibility)**

**They may not like the party. ['It is possible that they do not like the party.']**

# Sentence Types 1

Simple sentences may be divided into four major syntactic types differentiated by their form. Their use correlates largely with different discourse functions:

1. Declaratives are sentences in which the subject is present and generally precedes the verb:
  - **Pauline gave Tom a digital watch for his birthday.**
2. Interrogatives are sentences which are formally marked in one of three ways:
  - yes-no interrogatives: the operator is placed in front of the subject:
    - **Did Pauline give Tom a digital watch for his birthday?**
  - wh-interrogatives: the interrogative wh-element is positioned initially:
    - **What did Pauline give Tom for his birthday?**
  - Rising Intonation:
    - **You gave Tom a watch for his BIRTHDAY?**

## **Sentence Types 2**

**3. Imperatives are sentences which normally have no overt grammatical subject, and whose verb has the base form:**

- **Give me a digital watch for my birthday.**

**4. Exclamatives are sentences which have an initial phrase introduced by what or how, usually with subject-verb order:**

- **What a fine watch he received for his birthday!**

# Discourse Functions

Associated with these four sentence types are four classes of discourse functions:

1. Statements are primarily used to convey information.
2. Questions are primarily used to seek information on a specific point.
3. Directives are primarily used to instruct somebody to do something.
4. Exclamations are primarily used for expressing the extent to which the speaker is impressed by something.

# Questions

Questions can be divided into three major classes according to the type of reply they expect:

Those that expect affirmation or negation, as in:

- **Have you finished the book? are YES-NO questions.**

Those that typically expect a reply from an open range of replies, as in

- **What is your name? or How old are you? are WH- questions.**

Those that expect as the reply one of two or more options presented in the question, as in:

- **Would you like to go for a WALK or stay at HOME? are Alternative questions.**

# Yes/No Questions 1

Yes-no questions are usually formed by placing the operator before the subject and giving the sentence a rising intonation:

Our team was BEATEN.

Was our team BEATEN?

She'll be waiting OUTSIDE.

Will she be waiting OUTSIDE?

If there is no item in the verb phrase that can function as operator, DO is introduced, as with negation:

They live in Sydney.

Do they live in Sydney?

He likes driving.

Does he like driving?



# Yes/No Questions 2

Again as with negation, in BrE the main verb HAVE in the stative sense often acts as operator, but informally HAVE . . . got is more common:

- **She has a cold.**
- **Does she have a cold? (AmE)** American English prefers do-constructions
- **Has she (got) a cold? (BrE)**

By placing the nuclear stress in a particular part of a yes-no question, we are able to focus the interrogation on a particular item of information which, unlike the rest of the sentence, is assumed to be unknown. Thus the focus falls in different places in the following otherwise identical questions:

- **Was he a famous actor in THOSE days?** ['I know he was once a famous actor - but was it then or later?']
- **Was he a FAMOUS actor in those days?** ['I know he was an actor in those days - but was he a famous one?']