

Unit 63: COMPLEX SENTENCE TYPES

Simple sentence types are in Unit 62. This unit shows you some other types of sentence. It also tells you the most useful verbs which you can use with each type.

NOTICE: To understand NOUN PHRASES, look at Unit 45.

To learn about VERB FORMS, look at Unit 14.

1

	VERB	NOUN PHRASE	BASE FORM OF VERB
They	let	the construction crew	leave early.
Just	look at	him	hammer!

In this type, you can also use:

feel, hear, help, make, notice, see, watch.

2

	VERB	NOUN PHRASE	to BASE FORM OF VERB
Everybody	expects	Raoul	to jackhammer.
The boss	wants	us	to work late today.

In this type, you can also use:

allow, ask, forbid, get, help, leave, prefer, would like, would love.

3

	VERB	+	NOUN PHRASE	+	-ing FORM OF VERB
I finally	got		the table saw		working.
They	saw		him		standing there.

In this type, you can also use:

feel, find, hate, have, hear, keep, leave, like, listen to, look at, love, notice, remember, see, stop, watch.

4

	VERB	NOUN PHRASE	PAST PARTICIPLE
I	had	my safety glasses	fixed. (Somebody did it for me.)
We	got	the safety glasses	fixed. (Somebody fixed them for me.)

In this type, you can also use:

find, keep, leave, see, want.

5

	VERB	+	that	CLAUSE
I	know		that	you have had many problems lately.
They	said		that	the weather would be fine.
I	suggest		that	you see a doctor.
She	thinks		that	Jericho will finish the drywall taping.

Also **tell** + noun phrase + **that** clause:

He told the students that they could go home.

NOTICE: We usually leave out **that** in speaking. This does not change the meaning.

They said that the weather would be fine
and They said the weather would be fine
have the same meaning.

6

	VERB	+	ADJECTIVE	+	that	CLAUSE
They	were		surprised		that	I had got the job.
She	was		sure		that	he hadn't forgotten.

You can use most adjectives which show what you feel and think in this way. For example, **angry, happy, hurt, pleased.**

NOTICE: We usually leave out **that** in speaking (the same as in 5 above).

7

If OR Whether CLAUSE

I'm not sure	if	it will be ready on time.
I don't know	whether	he has finished the mudding.
She wondered	if	she should tell him.

You can also use **ask, discuss, find out, forget, not remember, not say** in the same type of sentence.

For clauses after question words, look at Unit 13.

8

VERB TENSE IN THE CLAUSE

If the verb of the sentence is past tense, the verb in the clause is also past tense. For example:

He agreed that it was not a good idea.	NOT <i>is</i>
They said the weather would be fine.	NOT <i>will be fine</i>
I didn't know whether he had passed the exam.	NOT <i>has passed</i>