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 children	leave early.
Just	look at	him	run!

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	Argentina	to win.	
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 car		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 hair	done.	(Somebody did it for me.)
We	got	the TV	fixed.	(Somebody fixed it for us.)

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	Canada will win the World Cup.

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 passed the exam.
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 *is*
They **said** the weather **would** be fine.	NOT *will be fine*
I **did**n't know whether he **had** passed the exam.	NOT *has passed*