The transformation of a sentence is all about changing its form without altering its meaning. We can, for example, transform an exclamatory sentence into an assertive sentence or vice-versa. We can also transform simple sentences into complex or compound sentences. It is an excellent exercise as it teaches a variety of expressions in English. We shall learn the rules of transformation of sentences, one at a time. But before that you have to understand the various kinds of sentences-

* Sentences can be classified into affirmative, negative, imperative, interrogative, assertive (declarative) and exclamatory sentences.
* **1. Affirmative Sentence**
* Affirmative sentence means the sentences which are used to describe any general action, event, speech, or expression. An affirmative sentence is a sentence that affirms, rather than negates, a proposition. In other words, any sentence or declaration that is positive is an affirmative statement. Thus, affirmative sentences are the opposite of negative sentences.
* **Examples:-**
* Every student is present today.
* He was always punctual.
* **2. Assertive or Declarative Sentence**
* A sentence that makes a statement or assertion is called an assertive or declarative sentence. The **key difference** between assertive and affirmative [sentence](https://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-sentence-and-vs-utterance/) is that **an assertive sentence can be either positive or negative whereas an affirmative sentence is always positive.** Assertive sentences always end with a period or full stop.
* **Examples**
* He goes to school
* He likes to play chess.
* They are singing a song.
* **3. Interrogative Sentence**
* A sentence that asks a question is called an interrogative sentence. Interrogative sentence ends with question mark.
* **Examples.**
* Where are you going?
* Do you use your laptop?
* **4. Imperative Sentence**
* A sentence that expresses a request, command or advice is called an imperative sentence.
* **Examples**
* Open the door. (an order)
* Please help me. (a request)
* **5. Exclamatory Sentence**
* A sentence that expresses strong feelings or emotions is called an exclamatory sentence. These sentences express surprise, joy, sorrow, appreciation, love excitement, frustration, anger etc. An exclamatory sentence ends with exclamation mark.
* **Examples**
* What a beautiful flower it is!
* How nicely she is singing!
* That is fantastic!
* Hurrah! We won the match!

**Transformation of an exclamatory sentence into an assertive sentence**

Exclamations are often constructed with how and what.

**Exclamations with how**

Mainly two structures are used.

**How + adjective /adverb + subject + verb**

How clever he is! (Note the word order - the adjective or the adverb goes before the subject and the verb goes after the subject.)
How intelligent you are!
How nice it is!
How cold it is!

**How + subject + verb**

How he has changed!
How you've grown!

**Exclamations with what**

We make exclamations with what when the adjective is followed by a noun. Note that this structure is used even when there is no adjective. Several structures are possible.

**What a/an + adjective + singular countable noun**

What a lovely girl!
What a nice surprise!
What a rude guy!
What a wonderful sight!

**What a/an + singular countable noun**

What a surprise!
What a tragedy!

**What + adjective + plural / uncountable noun**

What terrible weather!
What idiots!

* What a wonderful opportunity! (exclamatory)
* It is a wonderful opportunity. (assertive)
* O that I were young again! (exclamatory)
* I wish I were young again. (assertive)
* How kind of you to help him like that! (exclamatory)
* It is very kind of you to help him like that. (assertive)
* How noble he is! (exclamatory)
* He is truly noble. (assertive)
* What a great pleasure it is! (exclamatory)
* This is indeed a great pleasure. (assertive)

**Assertive to Exclamatory Sentence Transformation Rules**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sr.no** | **Assertive Sentence structure** | **Exclamatory Sentence structure** | **Rule** | **Example** |
| 1 | Subject + verb + a + very + adjective/ adverb + ext. | What + a/ an + adjective/ adverb + ext. + subject + verb! | in exclamatory sentence, a very is replaced by what +a/an before adjective/ adverb. | **Assertive:-** It is a very nice story.**Exclamatory:-**What a nice story it is! |
| 2 | Subject + verb + very + adjective/ adverb + ext. | how + adjective/ adverb + ext. + subject + verb! | in exclamatory sentence , very is replaced by how  | **Assertive:-**The scenery looks very nice.**Exclamatory:-**How nice the scenery looks! |
| 3 | Subject + wish + subject + verb + ext.  | If + subject + verb + ext.! | For subject + wish, if is used in exclamatory sentence. | **Assertive:-**I wish I had the wings of a bird.**Exclamatory:-**If I had the wings of a bird! |
| 4 | Subject + wish + subject + could + verb + ext. | would that + subject + could + verb + ext! | For subject + wish + couldclause, if /would that is used in exclamatory sentence | **Assertive:-**We wish we could shift there.**Exclamatory:-**Would that we could shift there! |

**Exclamatory to Assertive Sentence Transformation Rules**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sr.no** | **Exclamatory Sentence structure** | **Assertive Sentence structure** | **Rule** | **Example** |
| 1 | what + a/an + adjective/ adverb + subject + verb! | Subject + verb + a + very + adjective/ adverb. | in assertive sentence, what +a/an is replaced by a very and these are used after verb and before adjective/ adverb. | **Exclamatory:-** What a nice baby you are!**Assertive:-** You are a very nice baby. |
| 2 | How + adjective/ adverb + subject + verb!  | Subject + verb + very + adjective/ adverb. | in assertive sentence ,how is replaced by very and it is used after verb. | **Exclamatory:-**How beautifully you sing!**Assertive:-**You sing very beautifully. |
| 3 | Hurrah! Subject + verb + ext.  | It is a matter of joy that + subject + verb + ext. | Hurrah is replaced by it is a matter of joy | **Exclamatory:-** Hurrah! we have won.**Assertive:-** It is a matter of joy that we have won. |
| 4 | Alas! Subject + verb + ext.  | It is a matter of sorrow that + subject + verb + ext. | Alas is replaced by it is a matter of sorrow. | **Exclamatory:-**Alas! I am undone.**Assertive:-**It is a matter of sorrow that I am undone. |
| 5 | If + subject + were/verb(past) + ext.!  | Subject + wish + subject + were/ verb(past) + ext. | For ‘If were/verb(past)’ , subject + wish + were/verb(past) is used in assertive sentence. | **Exclamatory:-**If I sang a song!**Assertive:-**I wish I sang a song. |
| 6 | Were/Had + subject + ext.!  | Subject + wish + subject + were/had + ext. | For ‘Were/ Had’, subject + wish + were/had is used in assertive sentence. | **Exclamatory:-**Were I a child again!**Assertive:-**I wish I were a child again. |
| 7 | Would that + subject + could + verb + ext.!  | Subject + wish + subject + could + verb + ext. | For if /would that subject + wish is used in assertive sentence. | **Exclamatory:-**Would that we could play cricket!**Assertive:-**We wish we could play cricket. |

**Exercise**

Change the assertive sentences given below into exclamatory sentences.

1. The moonlight sleeps upon this bank very sweetly.

2. Night is very beautiful.

3. It was a wonderful sight.

4. Man is a wonderful piece of work.

5. She is an incredibly beautiful woman.

**Answers**

1. How sweetly the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!

2. How beautiful the night is!

3. What a wonderful sight it was!

4. What a piece of work man is!

5. What a beautiful woman she is! OR How beautiful she is!

Note that in all of these structures the verb goes after the subject.