

Periodic Sentence

Definition

- A periodic sentence is a type of a complex sentence in which the main clause or predicate is at the end.
 - A complex sentence is made up of an independent clause (highlighted) and at least one dependent clause (underlined). Ex) After arriving at school, I felt ill.
 - The predicate contains the verb of the sentence and states what is happening to the subject.
 - The main clause contains the subject and the predicate and could be a complete sentence itself.
- Periodic sentences save the main action of the sentence until the very end. They are often used for emphasis, but can also be persuasive by putting reasons for something at the beginning before the final point is made. These types of sentences can create suspense or interest for the reader.

Examples

"To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men, that is genius." —Ralph Waldo Emerson in "Self Reliance"

"Halfway between West Egg and New York City sprawls a desolate plain, a gray valley where New York's ashes are dumped" —F. Scott Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby*

"Snowflakes"

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"Out of the bosom of the Air,
Out of the cloud-folds of her garment shaken,
Over the woodlands brown and bare,
Over the harvest-fields forsaken,
Silent and soft, and slow,
Descends the snow."

Complete Poem:

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/173915>