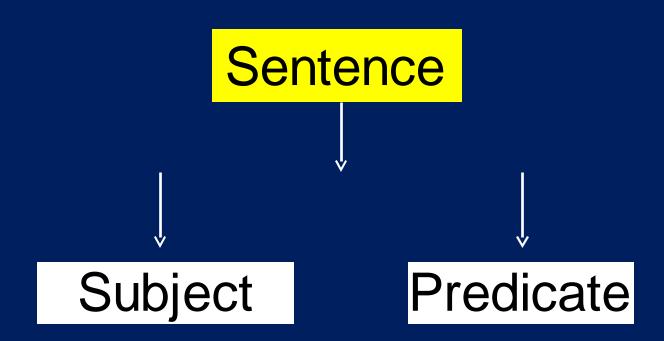# BASICS OF ENGLISH SENTENCES

A <u>subject</u> is <u>something or someone that does something</u>:

Govind **studied the lesson.**
The girl **is eating an apple.**
The cat **chased the rat.**

Or

<u>something or someone that the sentence describes or renames</u>:

Ram **is a good doctor.**
Gita **is a clever student.**
This car **is very expensive.**

The **predicate** is the part of the sentence other than the subject. It must contain a verb.

SUBJECT	PREDICATE
A thief	*stole the car.*
His brother	*is a teacher.*
The rain	*has been falling steadily.*
Sheela	*will be coming soon.*
The train	*left five minutes ago.*

SENTENCE PATTERNS

1. SUBJECT-VERB
(S V)

Someone or something (the subject S) does something (the verb)

Ali	*slept.*
We	*will be waiting.*
The train	*has left.*
The sun	*is disappearing.*
The glass	*is broken.*

2. SUBJECT-VERB-OBJECT
S V O

Someone or something (S) does something (V) to someone or something else (the direct object O_d).

Ram	*ate*	*an apple.*
Jimmy	*studied*	*the lesson.*
A thief	*stole*	*the car.*
Shobha	*has finished*	*her book.*
She	*wrote*	*a poem.*

3. SUBJECT-VERB-OBJECT$_I$ -OBJECT$_D$

S V O$_I$ O$_d$

When the verb takes two objects, the first object is called the indirect object (O$_i$) and the second the direct object (O$_d$).

4. SUBJECT-VERB-COMPLEMENT
S-LV-C

In sentences that tell what someone or something is or looks like.

(The complement describes or renames the subject)

?An object or a complement

.Javed **is** a doctor

.Ram **visited** the doctor

5. SUBJECT-VERB-OBJECT-OBJECT COMPLEMENT

SVOC$_O$

A complement after the object describes or renames it.

SUMMARY OF SENTENCE PATTERNS

1. **S V**
   The train left.

2. **SVO**
   Samir wrote a poem.

3. **SVOO**
   She sent me a letter.

4. **SVC**
   My uncle is a teacher.

5. **SVOC$_o$**

   He considered the book meaningless

EXPANDING SENTENCES

Sentences can be expanded to give more information by one of the following:

1. SINGLE WORDS
2. PHRASES.
3. COMBINING CLAUSES.

1. <u>Adding single words:</u>

The student answered the question.

*The **clever** student answered the **difficult** question.*

*The **clever** student answered the **difficult** question **quickly**.*

*Yesterday, the **clever** student answered the **extremely difficult** question **very quickly**.*

2. Adding phrases:

A phrase is a group of words that does not have a finite verb.

EXAMPLES OF PHRASES:

In the morning - the clever student - On the table
Before dinner - To me - Last week - To tell him

To study hard - Being a citizen - Arriving early
to tell the truth - Respecting your parents -

all of a sudden - without delay - for a while

once upon a time -

Expanding sentences by phrases:

My friend arrives.

*My **best** friend arrives **tomorrow**.*
(single words)

To my surprise, *My **best** friend from Jeddah arrives **tomorrow** at the airport at 7 o'clock.*
(single words and phrases)

3. Combining clauses:

A clause is a group of words containing a subject and a verb.

EXAMPLES OF CLAUSES

The bus **arrived.**
The teacher **asked** me a question.
This car **is** great.
She **is working hard.**

Because he **succeeded** . . . .
When Ahmad **saw** me . . . .
After they **left** the store . . . .
Since the computer **is not working** . . . .

INDEPENDENT CLAUSES: They can stand alone in sentences.

- **The question is difficult.**
- **Sarah is drawing a picture.**
- **The teacher explained the lesson.**

DEPENDENT CLAUSES (SUBORDINATE CLAUSES): They cannot stand alone in sentences because they start with certain words called *subordinating words*.

- **When they told me . . . .**
- **Although she knows . . . .**
- **While he was doing her homework . . . .**

Some subordinating words

Although - After - Before
While - Whereas - Since
If - Unless - Which - That
Who - Whom - whose
Because - Until - When

Expanding sentences by dependent Clauses

My friend arrives tomorrow.

My friend <u>who lives in Cairo</u> arrives tomorrow.

The student answered the question.

The student <u>who is sitting beside the window</u> answered the question.

The student <u>who is sitting beside the window</u> answered the question <u>that the teacher asked.</u>

She succeeded.

She succeeded because she studied hard.

SENTENCE TYPES

Four main sentence types:

1. SIMPLE SENTENCE

2. COMPOUND SENTENCE

3. COMPLEX SENTENCE

4. COMPOUND-COMPLEX

THE SIMPLE SENTENCE. 1

ONLY ONE INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

❑ **<u>Examples of simple sentences:</u>**

▪ *The meeting started.*

▪ *Leila likes reading.*

▪ *Salwa ate her lunch.*

▪ *My uncle sent me a letter.*

▪ *His father is an accountant.*

▪ *The judge considered the case closed.*

THE COMPOUND. 2 SENTENCE

TWO OR MORE INDEPENDENT CLAUSES

There are <u>three ways</u> to join two independent clauses to make a compound sentence.

I. A coordinating conjunction and a comma:

Coordinating Conjunctions are seven:
And   But   Yet   For   Or   Nor   So (FAN BOYS)

Examples:

- *Fatma borrowed a novel**, and** Salma took a history book.*

- *Amin likes Greek food**, but** his sister prefers Chineese food.*

- *Nasser likes English**, so** he joined the English department.*

II. A Semicolon, a conjunctive adverb, and a comma:

Some Conjunctive adverbs

Therefore   Furthermore   Moreover Otherwise

However   Nevertheless   Meanwhile   Besides

Consequently   Still

Examples:

- Indian food is delicious**; however,** it is too spicy.

- He liked biology**; therefore,** he decided to join the faculty of Medicine.

III. A semicolon

;

Examples

- **All the typewriters were removed from the office; computers were put in their place.**

- **The old villa was demolished; a hotel replaced it.**

3. THE COMPLEX SENTENCE

ONE INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

AND AT LEAST ONE
SUBORDINATE CLAUSE

❑ <u>Examples of complex sentences:</u>

- **He succeeded because he studied hard.**

- **I remembered her sister when I saw her.**

- **Although he tried very hard, he did not finish in time.**

- **While Sara borrowed a science book, her sister took a history book.**

- **Before he left for school, Samir put all his books in his bag.**

NOTE ON PUNCTUATION

- If the sentence starts with the subordinate clause, a comma is needed.

- *Because he studied hard, he succeeded.*

- *When I met his father, I told him.*

- If the sentence starts with the independent clause, the Comma is not needed.

- *He succeeded because he studied hard.*

- *I told his father when I met him.*

Summary of Sentence Types

➤ **SIMPLE SENTENCE:** 1 independent clause.

- *He succeeded.*

- *Ali is clever.*

- *She has finished her homework.*

➤ **COMPOUND SENTENCE:** At least 2 independent clauses.

- *He succeeded, and his parents are happy.*

- *She works hard, but her sister always plays.*

- *Nasser is studying, and Ahmad is reading, but their sister is doing nothing.*

➤ **COMPLEX SENTENCE:** 1 independent clause + at least 1 subordinate clause.

- *Because he studied hard, he succeeded.*

- *She got the highest marks although she is not the best student.*

REMEMBER!

ANY SENTENCE MUST CONTAIN AT LEAST ONE INDEPENDENT CLAUSE.

AVOID
SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

A SENTENCE FRAGMENT IS PART OF A SENTENCE PUNCTUATED AS IF IT WERE A COMPLETE SENTENCE

EXAMPLES

- *Because he studied hard.* **(fragment: subordinate clause)**
- *While I was waiting.* **(fragment : subordinate clause)**
- *In the early morning.* **(fragment: Phrase)**
- *As in the past.* **(fragment: Phrase)**