

# Sentence structure

**Translate the following sentences**

1. Es difícil entenderlo.
2. Era imposible responder esas preguntas.
3. Es interesante hablar con ella.
4. Esta es una pregunta difícil de responder para mí.
5. No es seguro pararse en esa silla.

# Sentence structure

A

Difficult to understand etc.

Compare sentences (a) and (b):

- ☐ Jim doesn't speak very clearly. { (a) It is difficult to understand **him** .  
(b) **He** is difficult to understand.

Sentences (a) and (b) have the same meaning. Note that we say:

- ☐ He is difficult to understand. (*not* He is difficult to understand him.)

You can use the same structures with:

easy    hard    impossible    dangerous    safe    expensive    cheap    nice  
good    interesting    exciting

- ☐ Do you think it is **safe** (for us) to **drink this water**?  
Do you think this water is **safe** (for us) to **drink**? (*not* to drink it)
- ☐ The questions in the exam were very difficult. It was **impossible to answer them**.  
The questions in the exam were very difficult. They were **impossible to answer**.  
(*not* to answer them)
- ☐ Jill has lots of interesting ideas. It's **interesting to talk to her**.  
Jill is **interesting to talk to**. (*not* to talk to her.)

You can also use this structure with *adjective + noun*:

- ☐ This is a **difficult question** (for me) to **answer**. (*not* to answer it)



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(b) **He** is difficult to understand.

Sentences (a) and (b) have the same meaning. Note that we say:

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65.1 (Section A) Write these sentences in another way, beginning as shown.

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 It's difficult to understand him.         | He <u>is difficult to understand.</u> |
| 2 It's easy to use this machine.            | This machine is .....                 |
| 3 It was very difficult to open the window. | The window .....                      |
| 4 It's impossible to translate some words.  | Some words .....                      |
| 5 It's expensive to maintain a car.         | A .....                               |
| 6 It's not safe to stand on that chair.     | That .....                            |

65.2 (Section A) Complete the second sentence. Use the adjective in brackets and to ... as in the example.

- |                                   |             |   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1 I couldn't answer the question. | (difficult) | It was a <u>difficult question to answer.</u> |
| 2 Everybody makes that mistake.   | (easy)      | It's an .....                                 |
| 3 I like living in this place.    | (nice)      | It's a .....                                  |
| 4 We enjoyed watching the game.   | (good)      | It was a .....                                |