

Sentence Structure

SAT Intensive Workshop 2019

Foundations

- ▶ Each sentence *must* have:
 - ▶ Subject
 - ▶ Verb

Verb Types - Action

- ▶ Two main types of action verbs.
- ▶ Transitive:
 - ▶ Passes the action onto something else.
 - ▶ “I ate lunch in an empty room.”
 - ▶ “They called me into their office.”
- ▶ Intransitive:
 - ▶ Does not pass the action onto something else.
 - ▶ “You’ve grown since I last saw you.”
 - ▶ “I ran.”

Verb Types - Non-action

- ▶ Three main types of non-action verbs.
- ▶ Being verbs.
 - ▶ Am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been
 - ▶ “to be” verbs, show state of being.
- ▶ Linking verbs.
 - ▶ Link subject to a word (or phrase) about the subject.
 - ▶ “The ocean looked stormy.”
 - ▶ “I am happy.”

Verb Types - Non-action

- ▶ Helping (auxiliary) verbs.
 - ▶ Add meaning to sentence by accompanying a main verb.
 - ▶ Am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been
 - ▶ Have, has, had
 - ▶ Do, does, did
 - ▶ Shall, will, should, would
 - ▶ May, might, must
 - ▶ Can, could
- ▶ Subject-Auxiliary Inversion Test.
 - ▶ She can see the stars.
 - ▶ Can she see the stars?

More Building Blocks

- ▶ Some sentences have objects.
 - ▶ Transitive verb.
 - ▶ Direct object.
 - ▶ Indirect object.
- ▶ Some sentences have no object.
 - ▶ Intransitive verb.
 - ▶ Subject complement.

Pronoun Case

- ▶ Pronouns change if replacing subject or object.
- ▶ You and it remain the same.
- ▶ “For whom did you get a card?”
- ▶ “I got a card for her.”

Subject	Object
I	Me
She	Her
He	Him
We	Us
They	Them
Who	Whom
You, It	You, It

Preposition

- ▶ The thing that the preposition affects is the *object of the preposition*.
 - ▶ Pronouns for the object of the preposition are *always* object pronouns.
 - ▶ Object of preposition can *never* be the subject of a sentence.

Bigger Building Blocks

- ▶ A clause is just a group of words. There are two main types:
 - ▶ Independent clause.
 - ▶ Forms a stand-alone sentence.
 - ▶ Dependent clause.
 - ▶ Does not form a stand-alone sentence.
- ▶ Additional clause distinctions:
 - ▶ Restrictive clause.
 - ▶ Removing it takes away the primary meaning of the sentence.
 - ▶ Non-restrictive clause.
 - ▶ Removing it does *not* take away the primary meaning of the sentence.

Putting Blocks Together

- ▶ Conjunctions link clauses.
- ▶ Any clause beginning with a subordinating conjunction is dependent.
 - ▶ Even if it otherwise would've been independent!
 - ▶ “I was hungry.” vs. “Because I was hungry.”
- ▶ **Subordinating Conjunctions can link a dependent clause to an independent clause.**
 - ▶ “Because I was hungry, I ate lunch.”
- ▶ They can also link two independent clauses.
 - ▶ “I like chocolate ice cream, while she prefers vanilla.”

Putting Blocks Together

- ▶ **Coordinating conjunctions link two things of the same type together.**
 - ▶ Verbs - “The ill-mannered child kicked and screamed all the way home.”
 - ▶ Nouns - “Would you like chocolate ice cream or vanilla ice cream?”
 - ▶ Adjectives - “The ocean seemed calm yet ill-tempered.”
 - ▶ Adverbs - “Everyone’s SAT scores improved slowly but surely.”
 - ▶ Independent Clauses - “It was raining heavily, but we drove to school anyway.”
- ▶ Technically correct to start sentences with a CC.
 - ▶ Don’t overuse it!