

English Grammar Notes PDF

Sentence

Let's first understand **what is a Sentence ?**

A sentence is a set of words that is complete in itself means when a set of words convey something (Statement, question, command, idea) clearly, it is called as a sentence. The basic part of any sentence is a Subject and a Predicate

Let's understand what is a subject and predicate in sentence.

Important note

Usually 'Subject' comes before the 'Predicate', as you can see in the above examples. But at times, 'Predicate' comes before the 'Subject' in some kind of sentences. In the below examples, Predicate (verb) is coming before the Subject :

- 1) Here comes Rita : **Rita(subject) is coming after the verb/Predicate(comes)**
- 2) Now comes the sound of the Movie: **Here also subject is coming after predicate.**
- 3) There appears to be large number of people who are supporting Manish.

Can you find out the error in this example 3 given here ?

The Error is in "Appears". Appear is the correct verb to use here. Because verb 'appear' here is referring to 'Large number of people'. It is not referring to Manish according to the sentence structure. So for 'Large number of people', Plural form of verb will be used.

Parts of Speech

In any language, parts of speech are the most important. In English Grammar, these are called as the basic building blocks. Without the sound knowledge and understanding of the parts of speech you can not proceed in reading English Properly or expressing yourself correctly. No correct sentence can be formed without the proper knowledge of parts of speech. English words are categorized into several types or parts of speech based on the use and functions. There are eight parts of speech in English Language which are as follows :

1. Noun
2. Pronoun
3. Verb
4. Adjective
5. Adverb
6. Prepositions
7. Conjunctions
8. Interjections

Why Parts of Speech are important :

- Until and unless you are well acquaint with the Noun , Pronoun , Verb , Prepositions etc , you cannot command in English Language.
- Reading comprehension , Sentence connector , sentence correction Everything may improve if you will be able to quickly distinguish subject from direct object and objects of preposition etc.
- Parts of Speech refers to all words in the English language and how they can be grouped into eight different categories, depending upon their function.

Phrases and Clauses

Phrases and clause holds a major significance in English Grammar. Most of the times in examination the errors are in the phrase and clause of the sentence.

First let's understand Phrases :

A phrase is a group of words which stand together as a single unit. The phrase may have a noun , but it does not have a subject doing a verb(action) . Because a phrase does not contain a subject doing a verb , so it can't convey a complete message. Look at the below examples :

1. A ten foot long flag
2. Moving behind a car
3. The lost puppy

As you can see , above statements are not conveying any complete thought or idea. Hence they all are phrases.

There are many types of phrases which are :

1. **Noun Phrases:** A noun phrase contains noun and the words which modify that noun , for example : **A sick little boy**

2. **Verb Phrase:** A verb phrase is one which contains verb and it's modifiers . for example : **He was eager to know the story**

3. **Infinitive Phrase :** An infinitive phrase is a noun phrase that begins with an infinitive. for example , I went **to Kerela to explore new places.**

4. **Prepositional Phrases :** A phrase which begins with a preposition and can act as a noun, an adjective or an adverb , is known as a Prepositional Phrase. For example : **It rained for a while**

As **you** can see examples above (bold part) are not conveying any complete thought. Now let's see some of the common errors of Phrases :

1- I am **looking forward to seeing** you soon. (Incorrect)

I'm looking forward to see you soon. (Correct)

Clause :

A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb. It means a clause has a verb which is actively doing a verb(action) . A clause can be distinguished from a phrase, which does not contain a subject and a verb.

Clause are of two types : Independent Clause and Dependent clause

An independent clause is one which expresses a complete thought and can be a standalone sentence. While a **dependent clause** is usually a supporting part of a sentence, and it cannot stand by itself as a meaningful sentence/idea.

Examples : 1. Rita went to market after she watched the movie.

In this sentence , 'Rita went to market' is a complete sentence in itself hence it is a independent clause. While 'After she watched the movie' is a dependent clause as it can not be a complete sentence or idea, which means it is dependent on the first sentence.

2. I went to the Market : Independent Clause

Verb

Verb is defined as a word which is used to describe an action, state, or occurrence, and forming the main part of the predicate of a sentence. Verbs always express activity , whether mental activity or physical activity .Verbs are a necessary component of all sentences. Verbs have two important functions: Some verbs put stalled subjects into motion while other verbs help to clarify the subjects in meaningful ways.

Some examples of Verb are : Hear ,Listen ,Laugh , Speak , Cry , Eat etc.

Examples :

- The lady ate the cake ,Here ate is the *verb* and the word which shows the action of the sentence.
- The woman is lying on the bed .even though the action doesn't show much activity, lying is the *verb* of the sentence.
- She is a intelligent girl, there is no action but a **state of being** expressed by the helping verb 'is'.

Verbs change their form :

Most of the other parts of speech do not change their time with respect to the tenses, but **verbs change their form**. Some verbs are ended by adding 'ed' (Talk - talked) and some verbs end in a completely different way (teach-taught). The different forms of verbs show different meanings related to such things as tense (past, present, future), person (first person, second person, third person), number (singular, plural), and voice (active, passive). Verbs are also often accompanied by verb-like words called modals (may, could, should, etc.) and auxiliaries(do, have, will, etc.) to give them different meanings.

Verbs has a relationship with time :

One of the most important things about **verbs is their relationship to time**. With the form of verb , we can know if something has already happened, if it will happen later, or if it is happening now. For things happening now, we use the present tense of a verb; for something that has already happened, we use the past tense and for something that will happen later, we use the future tense. For example :

- She is dancing (This form of verb is telling that action is currently in progress)
- She danced (This form of verb is telling that action was in past)
- She will dance (This form of verb is telling that action will happen in future)

Different types of Verb :

Regular Verb and Irregular Verb :

The verbs like 'Dance' used in the sentence ,in which we make past tense by adding -d or -ed are known as regular verbs. For example :

Present	Past	Future
Laugh	Laughed	Laughed
Trust	Trusted	Trusted
Talk	Talked	Talked

The verbs , in which we do not add -d or -ed to make Past Tense are known as Irregular Verbs , For Example :

Present	Past	Future
Eat	Ate	Eaten
See	Saw	Seen
Speak	Spoke	Spoken

Progressive and Perfect Verb :

Apart from regular and irregular verbs , there are also **progressive or continuous forms which show that the action takes place over a period of time, and perfect forms which show completion of the action.** which are as following :

Present Continuous

is laughing

is eating

is sleeping

Present Perfect

has laughed

has eaten

has slept