

UNIT 3:

Fundamentals of Grammar

Elements of Sentence

- Subject
- Verb
- Object
- Complement
- Adjunct

Now, let us look at each of these components in detail.

Subject

A noun that performs the action in a sentence is considered as the subject. It answers the question 'who' or in other words, a subject can be identified by asking the question 'who'. A subject takes the first place in most cases, especially in declarative or assertive sentences.

For example:

- **The child** kept crying.
- **Our school team** won the match.
- **My son** is in the eighth grade.
- **Hard work** pays.
- **No one** came to the wedding.

Verb

In every sentence the most important word can be said to be the verb. A verb shows action or activity or work done by the subject. Remember that all verbs

including main verbs, helping verbs, stative verbs and action verbs come under this category. Most often, verbs appear immediately after the subject.

For example:

- Neena **is writing** a letter.
- It **was** too dark.
- I **feel** tired.
- My phone **is not working**.
- Tarun's dog **ran** away.

Object

An object is a noun or pronoun that receives the action done by the subject. Objects are of two types and they are,

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object

Direct Object

A noun or pronoun that receives the action directly is the direct object in the sentence. It answers the question 'what'. Direct objects mostly appear immediately after the verb and are the primary objects in the sentence.

For example:

- Harry bought a new **car**.
- My mom made a **cake**.
- I met **my friend**.
- She knows **all the songs**.
- We watched **a movie**.

Indirect Object

An indirect object is a noun or pronoun that is a secondary object. It can be identified by asking the question 'whom'. When there is an indirect object in a sentence, it is mostly placed after the verb and before the direct object.

For example:

- Vandhana gave **Keerthana** a cake.
- My mom bought **me** a new dress.
- I gave **him** a chocolate.
- They gave **us** coffee with breakfast.
- He lent **his friend** a pen.

Complement

The words required to complete the meaning of a sentence can be referred to as the complement of the sentence. A complement can be an adjective, a name, a position or a profession.

For example:

- It grew **dark**.
- He is a **dentist**.
- That's her dog, **Bruno**.

Complements are further divided into two types based on which component it speaks about. The two types of complement are,

- Subject Complement
- Object Complement

Subject Complement

The complement which expresses the quality or identity or condition of the subject is called Subject Complement.

For example:

- She is a **doctor**.
- I am **Sindhu**.
- Nandhu is **clever**.
- The students are very **excited**.
- My brother is a **teacher**.

Object Complement

The complement which expresses the quality or identity or condition of an object is called Object Complement.

For example:

- They made her **angry**.
- The students elected Sreya **the class leader**.
- They named their daughter, **Thara**.
- Marley met her friend, **Ryan**.
- Nobody found the movie **interesting**.

Adjunct

An adjunct is a word or a phrase that gives more information about an action, an event, a quality and so on. In short, it can be said that these words can include adverbs and adverb clauses. Adjuncts can be identified by asking questions 'when', 'where', 'why', 'how', 'how often' and 'to what extent'. When using adjuncts, keep in mind that adjuncts can be used in the beginning, middle or end of the sentence and that there can be more than one adjunct in a sentence.

Take a look at the following examples to understand how adjuncts can be used.

- **Yesterday**, we met **at the park**.
- He is **very** tired.
- **Due to his ill-health**, he could not come home for Christmas.
- My father reads the newspaper **everyday**.
- This workout routine is **extremely** exhausting.

Types of Sentences (Meaning and Structure)

The 4 types of
Sentence **Structure**

1 simple

2 compound

3 complex

4 compound-complex

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Simple Sentence Structure

A **simple sentence** consists of one independent clause. (An independent clause contains a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought.)

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

- I like coffee.
- Mary likes tea.
- The earth goes round the sun.
- Mary did not go to the party.

Compound Sentence Structure

A **compound sentence** is two (or more) independent clauses joined by a conjunction or semicolon. Each of these clauses could form a sentence alone.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE COORDINATING CONJUNCTION INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

- I like coffee and Mary likes tea.
- Mary went to work but John went to the party.
- Our car broke down; we came last.

There are seven coordinating conjunctions:

- *and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so*

Complex Sentence Structure

A **complex sentence** consists of an independent clause plus a dependent clause. (A dependent clause starts with a subordinating conjunction or a relative pronoun, and contains a subject and verb, but does not express a complete thought.)

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTION DEPENDENT CLAUSE

- We missed our plane because we were late.
- Our dog barks when she hears a noise.
- He left in a hurry after he got a phone call.
- Do you know the man who is talking to Mary?

Here are some common subordinating conjunctions:

- *after, although, as, because, before, how, if, once, since, than, that, though, till, until, when, where, whether, while*

Here are the five basic relative pronouns:

- *that, which, who, whom, whose*

Compound-Complex Sentence Structure

A **compound-complex sentence** consists of at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.



- John didn't come because he was ill so Mary was not happy.
- He left in a hurry after he got a phone call but he came back five minutes later.

Use of Articles and Prepositions

There are many important aspects of the English language, and Articles and Prepositions are two of them. Articles are words like “a,” “an,” and “the.” They are used before nouns to show whether the noun is singular or plural.

Prepositions are words like “in,” “on,” and “with.” They show the relationship between one thing and another. In this lesson, we will discuss Articles and Prepositions in more detail, with examples of each.

What are articles?

Articles are a type of word that helps to identify a noun in a sentence. There are three articles in the English language: “the,” “a,” and “an.”

What are prepositions?

Prepositions are words that show relationships between other words in a sentence. For example, in the phrase “I am going to the store,” the word “to” is a preposition that shows the relationship between “I” and “store.”