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WEEK 8

Phase Structure

- * Any sentence in any language uses a variety of words such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions etc.

Quest - Look at the foll. extract and mark nouns by writing (N), adjectives by (A), verbs by (V) and adverbs by (adv).

It was (V) Monday (N) morning (N). Swaminathan (N) was (V) reluctant (A) to open (V) his eyes (N). He considered (V) Monday (N) set specially (adv) unpleasant (A) in the calendar (N).

1. S [It was Monday morning]

NP [It]

VP [was monday morning]

NP [Monday morning.]

2. S [Swaminathan was reluctant to open his eyes]

NP [Swaminathan]

VP [was reluctant to open his eyes]

Adj P [reluctant to open his eyes]

Prep P [to open his eyes]

VP [open his eyes]

NP [his eyes]

- * A phrase can have only one word, as "It", or it can have more words, as in "was Monday morning".

Here again there is a phrase within a phrase, as in Verb Phrase, verb "was" heads the phrase, but it has another phrase "Monday morning".

These two words coming together behave like one word, and complete the meaning of "was".

So, one word or more, a phrase is part of a sentence that performs a function in it.

But why can "It" be a phrase by itself, but "his" cannot be a phrase by itself? This is because "his" by itself is incomplete, "eyes" by itself is incomplete; Questions like "his" what?, whose "eye", etc. arise.

* Phrases can be of many kinds. They can be noun phrases headed by nouns and working like nouns; or, there can be verb phrase, adjectival phrase, adverbial phrase and prepositional phrase.

Word Order

Word order, which word can come after which word, is fixed in English.

In English, a question sentence, also called "Interrogative Sentence", begins either only with "Is / Are / Am / Was / Were / Will ... etc. or with "What / When /

Where / who / which / why .. ? " etc.

- # You must first have noun working as subject, then verb followed by object/complement.

English is a Subject-Verb-Object (S-V-O) language.

Eg. John drives a car.

You can't say any of the following:

- *John a car drive.
- *A car John drives
- *Drives John a car.

* Shows ungrammatical sentence.

- # In phrase, clause, sentence, at all levels, and in all kinds of sentences, word order is almost fixed in English.

- # Almost any two words or more come together in English only in a certain order.

- # For instance, you can only say "a car", you cannot say * "car a".

- # If you have "a red car", then again the order is fixed; you cannot put these words together in any other way.

- # If it takes an adjective after itself, then it can come

only as another phrase, such as in "a car of red colour" or "a car coloured red", etc. Ordinarily, adjectives precede nouns in English.

- * Even among Adjectives, the order is fixed.

If you have two adjectives, "costly" and "new" before the noun "car", then you can only say "costly new car", and not "new costly car".

If you have three or four adjectives before noun, even then the order is fixed. You generally say "costly new Maruti car" you do not say "Maruti new costly car", etc.

Activity 1: Rearrange the following jumbled words.

(a) → * my all books

(b) → teenaged only boys

(c) → losewood old bookshelves

(d) → the selected all players

Word order is fixed also for noun + noun, such as "class room", "History teacher", "Station Master", "Assistant Station Master", etc.

* The principle is to go from modifier to the modified. So if the "history" is not of the teacher, teacher teaches history, then history modifies "teacher". You can ask which teacher, and the answer is

"history teacher".

Activity 2: Rearrange the foll. jumbled phrases.

(a) laboratory transfer heat
→

(b) spoon coffee
→

(c) hockey girls team
→

(d) garden children's
→

(e) board school secondary education
→

You can also have two nouns joined by a preposition.
For instance,

- King of England
- Captain of the team
- Gun of the soldier
- Biscuit for dog
- Car in the garbage

The head of the Noun Phrase comes first. Modifiers joined by prepositions or otherwise follow.

* Word Order is fined also among verbs.

If you have two or three words together making verbal group, such as

"John has been driving car since morning", then "has been driving" is a verbal group, where "has" comes first, followed by "been" which shows a time coming from the past, then you can bring main verb, in this case "drive", and to show that the action continues you can attach "-ing" at the end of the main verb, not at its beginning, so you have "has been driving"; you cannot say the following:

- * has been ingdrive, or
- * been drive hasing, or
- * drive beening has, etc.

A common general principle is to show time of action; unambiguously, so you begin with tense and end it in the present time. For example,

- (a) It has been raining (since yesterday).
- (b) Robert has lived in Chennai (for decades).
- (c) Crops have been destroyed by floods or droughts.
- (d) The train is running to time.
- (e) Moral education had been given an important place in education.

Even without words like "since yesterday" and "for decades", we know that the speaker means to say

That it has been raining since sometime in the past, and that John has lived in Chennai for a period of time.

- # Word order is generally fixed even in the verbal group of words.
- * You have tense (present/past) followed by aspect (has/have or had), voice (active/passive), and then simple/progressive (v+ing).

Activity 3: Reorganize the sentence from the jumbled words given below:

(a) served are treats

→

(b) exchanged presents are

→

(c) houses flowers adorn

→

(d) be brilliantly could te It not said shore that

→

An adverb qualifies adjectives and verbs, such as in the following sentences.

Swaminathan is a very good boy. He gets up early in the morning, and begins his studies immediately.

- # In the sentences above, underlined words are adverbs.
- # They qualify either adjectives, as "very" before "good".
- # In the first sentence, or they qualify verbs, as "early in the morning" qualifies "gets up", and "immediately" qualifies "begins".
- # The first adverb intensifies goodness; how good is Swaminathan? He is very good. Similarly, when does he get up? The answer is "early in the morning". When does he begin his studies? The answer is "immediately". So adverb qualifies adjectives & verbs.
- # For adjectives, an adverb is an intensifier. You can, for instance, say, "Radha is very pretty." One might ask "how pretty?", the answer is "very".
- # For verbs, it indicates manner, purpose and/or reason, place and many shades of time, like duration, frequency, etc. You can imagine a sentence such as follows. "The night mail from New Delhi arrived late at Secunderabad due to fog this morning."
- # All the underlined words perform the work of an adverb, just as very does in the first sentence. They indicate manner, reason/purpose, place & time.

EXCERCISE

Put the verb into correct form, -ing or to. Either form is possible.

- (a) The curtain is dirty. They need _____ (clean).
- (b) Whenever I see this comedian, I can't help _____ (smile).
- (c) Reena never wears sunglasses. She doesn't like sunglasses (wear).
- (d) I regret _____ that we are going to have a cyclonic storm this evening. (say).
- (e) Ananya has been ill but now she's beginning better. (get)

Clause Structure

- # Clause is a higher level structure than phrase.
- # Just as a phrase has one or more words, a clause has one phrase or more.
- # For instance, see the following sentence:
It was Monday morning.

It has two phrases:

- NP [It]
- VP [was Monday morning]
- NP [Monday morning]

But a clause is a higher structure than a phrase. A clause has at least one verb with tense. See the following:

He recollects what work he had for the day.

There are 2 clauses in this sentence:

- He recollects
- what work he had for the day

You may note that both the clauses have at least one verb each with tense. In clause(1), "recollect" is in past tense, making it "recalled". In clause(2), "had" is also a past tense auxiliary verb.

The following sentence has only one clause.
"It was Monday morning."

Why does it have only one clause?
Because it has one verb only, "was", and it is in past tense.

The following sentence, on the other hand, has three clauses.

"Swaminathan left his seat, jumped on the platform, and placed his notebook on the table."

Can you say which clauses?

- Swami Nathan left his seat
- jumped on the platform
- and placed his notebook on the table.

A sentence must have at least one clause with complete information, without having to depend on elements outside itself.

But each clause is not a sentence. If that clause does not have both subject and its Verb inside, then it cannot be a sentence by itself, though it is still a clause.

"He had a table on which all his things were thrown in a confused heap."

So, "He had a table" is both a clause & a sentence. But "on which all his things were thrown in a confused heap" is incomplete for meaning: without going outside the clause, you do not know what noun "which" refers to.

The following sentence has only one verb with tense, and therefore has only one clause and that clause is a sentence.

"There were huge windows on the left showing vast open grounds bound at the other extreme by the railway embankment."

Those clauses that can make a sentence by themselves are called "Principal Clause", or "Main Clause", or "Independent Clause". Others are called "Subordinate Clause".

Look at the following sentence:

"Mani replied that he had a pair of wooden clubs at home with which he would break the backs of those that dared to tamper with him.

Main Clause: Mani replied

Subordinate Clause: • that he had a pair of wooden clubs at home

- with which he would break the backs of those
- that dared to tamper with him

Simple Sentence & Agreement Rules

A simple sentence has only one clause.

Therefore, that is the main clause of the sentence.

For instance.., see the following:

- a. It was Monday morning.
- b. Swaminathan was reluctant to open his eyes.
- c. He considered Monday specially unpleasant in the calendar.
- d. After the delicious freedom of Saturday and Sunday, it was difficult to get into the Monday mood of work and discipline.
- e. He shuddered at the very thought of school : that dismal yellow building; the fire-eyed Vedanayagam, his class-teacher; and the Head Master with his thin long cane.

The sentence :

- (a) has only 4 words
- (b) has 6 words
- (c) has 8 words
- (d) has 22 words
- (e) has 28 words

- They have only one verb each with a tense. In,
- (a) we have "was"
 - (b) has "was" once again,
 - (c) has "considered",
 - (d) has "was", and
 - (e) the last has "shuddered".

- # All simple sentences have more than or only one Noun Phrase (NP) working as subject, but only one Verb Phrase (VP)
- # They occur in a certain order in English, as we saw in an earlier unit of this module.
- # They are also bound together by a rule of agreement. Verb (V) in VP should agree with Noun (S) in NP in terms of number.
- # If Noun is in singular number, the verb must necessarily be in singular no. You can only say the following:
Deradutt cooks rice.
You can't say:
Deradutt cook rice.
- # This is ungrammatical. All verbs in English must agree with, must match, their nouns in the NP in number. There is no exception to this rule. "Deradutt", a singular noun must have a "singular verb "cooks", not cook.
- # Nouns in English are plural generally when they take "s" or "es" after them, but verbs become plural when they take no "s" or "es" after them.

Singular Nouns	Singular Verbs	Sing. Nouns	Sing. Verbs
The sun	Rises	Mahat Gandhi	Was
Water	Freezes	India	has
Man	Is		

- # Plural nouns take "s", "es", "have", but plural verbs just go in their neutral form as given in dictionaries.

Plural Nouns	Plural Verbs	Plural Nouns	Plural Verbs
Birds	fly	Freedom fighters	Were
Girls	are	Very young babies	Sleep
Children	Love	... prophets	Have
Dog	Are		

Note : There is, however, an exception. Pronouns like 'I' and 'you', even when singular, take plural verbs in English. They take verbs without 's', 'es'; they take 'have'. In the past tense, however, you say, "I was", but "you were".

Complex Sentence - 1

AGREEMENT ACROSS PHRASES & CLAUSES

- # A 'Complex sentence' has a main clause and at least one subordinate clause.

Eg. He was the only boy in the class who wore shoes.

MAIN CLAUSE : He was the only boy in the class.

SUB. CLAUSE : who wore shoe.

- # Together these clauses make it a complex sentence.

- # Rules of agreement of number apply across the clauses. Any reference to noun or pronoun of the main clause in a noun, or pronoun or verb in the subordinate clause will have to have the same number.

- # If the noun in the main clause is singular, then reference to it must be in singular.

Eg. These are the senior girls from this school who have been selected for training in life saving skills.

Main Clause : These are the senior girls from this school.

Sub. Clause : who have been selected for training in life saving skills.

- # But in the subordinate clause, you can't write 'who has been' -- That is ungrammatical because "who" in the sentence refers to "girls", a plural noun, in the earlier clause. Therefore, it takes "have", not "has".

- # Any verb or noun in the subordinate clause referring to a noun in the main clause must agree with the noun in the main clause in number.

COMPLEX SENT. - 2 : Noun Clause

- # We know that a complex sentence has a main clause and at least one subordinate clause.

- # A main clause necessarily has a noun phrase and at least one verb phrase, which has a verb in either present or in past tense.
- # But subordinate clause can be of many kinds, and may function in the sentence like a noun phrase, or noun, a verb phrase, or verb, an adjectival phrase, or an adjective, adverb or an adverbial phrase, etc.
- # In other words, a clause can also function like a phrase, or a word, performing the function of its class, like an adjective, or an adverb, or a noun, or verb. In the following sentence, for example, the subordinate clause works like an adjective.
- 'Only the wearer knows where shoe pinches'.
- Main Clause : Only the wearer knows
 Subordinate Clause : where shoe pinches
- # The sub-ordinate clause here works like a noun. It is the object to the verb "know" in the main clause. What do you know - you know "where shoe pinches".
- # Let us look at another example.
 "That the river is in spate here at this time of the year is well known."
- # Here [That the river is in spate here at this time of year]

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sub-noun clause functions like a noun which is the subject to the verb "is" within the main clause.

- # The entire subordinate clause here functions like a simple word 'It' which has become the subject of the sentence "[[It] is well-known]". The entire sentence could also be written or spoken as
- "It is well known that the river is in spate here at this time of the year".
- # So, the subordinate clause [That the river is in spate here at the time of the year] is a noun clause which is the subject of the main clause "[] is well known". It like a noun, or like a noun phrase, noun clause can also perform the function of a noun by becoming either subject or object of a subordinate clause.

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Know Your Sentence

ADJECTIVES

1. Common Adjective Mistakes

(a) I'm not interesting in the movie.

Correction: I'm not interested in the movie.

(b) That is a French white old house.

Correction: That is an old white French house.

[Determiner, opinion, size, age, shape, color, origin, material and purpose]

(c) He's more stronger than his opponent.

Correction: He's stronger than his opponent.

(d) You're the most perfect person I've ever seen.

Correction: You're the perfect person I've ever seen.

[Examples of Absolute Adj: supreme, wonderful, horrible, brilliant, final, obvious, unique, absolute, complete, ideal, preferable, dead, etc.]

(e) Which is the shortest of these two routes?

Correction: Which is the shorter of these two routes?

PREPOSITIONS

Common Preposition Mistakes

1. My birthday is on July!

CORRECTION: My birthday is in July!

2. Ram often goes out in the night.

CORRECTION: Ram often goes out at night.

3. I've been working for this company since three years.

CORRECTION: I've been working for this company for 3 years.

4. Ram is married with Sita.

CORRECTION: Ram is married to Sita.

5. Where is my phone at?

CORRECTION: Where is my phone?

6. She looked like she was tired.

CORRECTION: She looked as though she was tired.

7. They arrived to the school.

CORRECTION: They arrived at the school.

8. We went at the mall.

CORRECTION: We went to the mall.

9. I am afraid sharks.

CORRECTION: I am afraid of sharks.

10. I made sure to study my exam.

CORRECTION: I made sure to study for my exam.

11. I slept before sun.

CORRECTION: I slept before running.

ARTICLES

Common Article Mistakes

1. I am doctor specialised in neurology.

Correction: I am a doctor specialised in neurology.

Rule: Always put a/an before a singular, common noun.

2. Ravi studies at an university.

Correction: Ravi studies at a university.

Rule: Use 'a' before consonant sounds, 'an' before vowel sounds.

3. Savithri has best voice I've ever heard.

Correction: Savithri has the best voice I've ever heard.

Rule: Always put 'the' before superlative degrees.

4. I need a advice from you about joining yoga classes.

Correction: I need advice from you about joining yoga class.

Rule: Do not put 'a' or 'an' before uncountable nouns.
[Idea - countable, advice - uncountable]

5. The teachers should not punish their students.

Correction: Teachers should not punish their students.

Rule: Use no article when generalizing with plurals.

6. Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world.

Correction: The Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world.
Rule: Use 'the' with oceans, rivers, valleys, deserts, mountain ranges, points on globe

NOTE: Do not use 'the' with the following places.

1. I'm going home.

2. She's at work.

3. He's in jail.

4. My kids went to bed.

5. My brother is in high school.

6. My sister is in college.

NOTE: Use 'the' following places:

1. I went to the bank.

2. He gets home from the office around 7.

3. I'll stop by the post office.

4. I'll pick you up at the train station.

5. We took my son to the doctor.

6. Let's go to the movies.

7. My grandfather is in the hospital.

8. I got a taxi to the airport.

9. We're waiting at the bus stop.

10. I'm going to the dentist this afternoon.