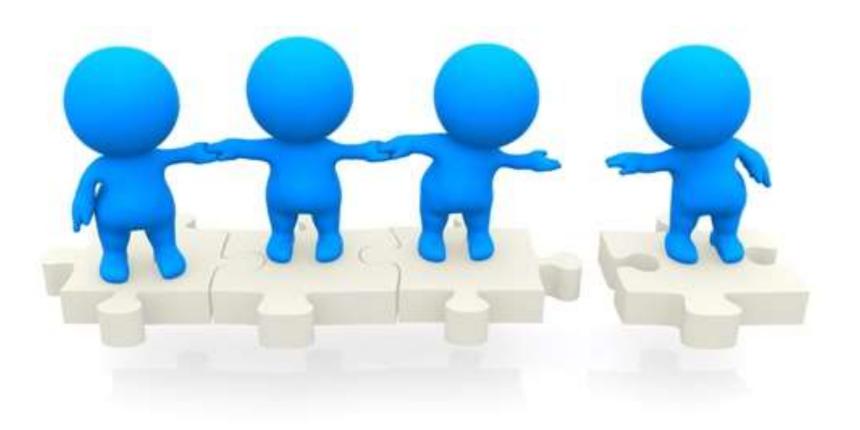
# Understanding the Parts of a Sentence

**English Parts of a Sentence** 

Subject | Predicate | Direct Object | Indirect Object Object of the Preposition | Transitive & Intransitive Verbs

Linking Verbs | Complements | Exercises

Understanding the parts of a sentence in English is crucial to your success in learning English grammar.



#### In this section we will learn:

What a sentence is.

What the different parts of a sentence are.

 How to construct proper sentences in English.

#### What is a sentence?



A sentence is a group of words that expresses a *complete idea*.

"She feels sad." <-- A complete idea

# These are sentences (they express a complete idea):

• I like to swim.

Jane bakes tasty cookies.

Mark will quit his job.

## These are not complete sentences (they don't express a complete idea):

- She gave me the.
  (What did she give me?)
- Will build the house.
   (Who will build the house?)
- Tony watching a movie.
   (Is Tony watching the movie now? Was he watching the movie in the past? Or will he be watching the movie in the future?)

#### A sentence can express:

A statement.

**Example:** You are tall.

A question.

**Example:** Are you tall?

An order.

Example: Be tall!

A wish.

**Example:** I wish I were taller.

#### Writing tips

1) In written English sentences begin with a CAPITAL letter.

Correct: You are tall.

**Incorrect:** you are tall.

2) Sentences can end with a period (.), a question mark (?), an exclamation point (!) or an ellipsis (. . .).

Correct: You are tall.

Incorrect: You are tall,

**Incorrect:** You are tall . . . . . .

**Incorrect:** You are tall

# Why should you know the parts of a sentence?

Once you know the parts of a sentence, and how to combine them, you can form **logical** sentences that will be well understood by others.

People usually prefer working with other people they can easily understand, so this is a very important quality to have for the workplace. Not to mention any other situation that involves other people!

Moreover, once you master the parts of a sentence, you can easily understand other people's sentences.

So go ahead and learn the English parts of a sentence.

Understand them, and practice using them in properly constructed sentences.

This can serve you tremendously!

# What are the parts of a sentence?

 A sentence must minimally have a subject and a verb. Sometimes the subject can be omitted if it is understood.

 In the following examples the subject is green and the verb is red:

Tom walks.

We met Susan.

They are washing the dishes.

Lisa will arrive soon.

She is nice.

There is food on the table.

#### Leave!

(The subject in this sentence was omitted, since it is understood to be "you": You leave!)

There are other parts of a sentence you can use, in addition to a subject and a verb.

# Here is a list of the parts of a sentence (and other relevant subjects):

- Subject
- Predicate
- Direct object
- Indirect object

- Object of the preposition
- Transitive verbs and intransitive verbs

- Linking verbs
- Complements

#### The SUBJECT and PREDICATE

### The **subject** is the person or thing about which something is being stated.



"Joe is a good boy."

Who is a good boy?

Joe is.

So "Joe" is the subject.

#### The DIRECT OBJECT

A direct object is a **person** or **thing** that is affected by the action of the verb. You could say that the direct object "receives the action of the verb."

"He broke the window."

What was affected by the action? The window was.

So "the window" is the direct object.



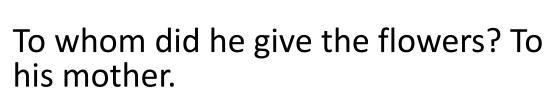
#### The INDIRECT OBJECT

An indirect **object** is a **person** or thing that the action is **done to** or **for**.

The indirect object usually comes just before the direct object.

You could also say that the indirect object is the receiver of the direct object.

"He gave his mother flowers."



So "his mother" is the indirect object.



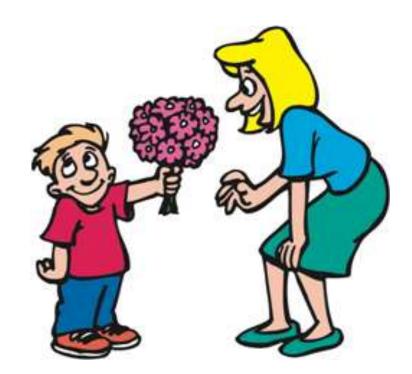
## Is it a direct object or an indirect object?

How can you tell a direct object from an indirect object?

Here are some TIPS to help you:

- 1) A direct object receives the action of the verb. In other words, it is directly affected by it.
- 2) An indirect object is the receiver of the direct object, and it usually comes just before it.

Let's have another look at some of the previous examples (the direct object is green, the indirect object is red):



"He gave his mother flowers."

#### The verb is "gave."

Who is directly affected by this action? The flowers. They are given!

So "flowers" is the direct object.

Who receives the flowers? His mother.

So "his mother" is the **indirect object.** 

You can see that the indirect object ("his mother") is located just before the direct object ("flowers").

#### The OBJECT of the PREPOSITION

### The object of the preposition is a **noun** or a **pronoun** that *completes its meaning.*

"The cat is looking at the fish."



#### Example 1:

- She is thinking about.
  - This sentence is incomplete. We don't what is she thinking about.
- Here is the complete version:
  - She is thinking <u>about</u> your **idea**.
    - This sentence is complete. "Idea" is the object of the preposition "about."

# TRANSITIVE & INTRANSITIVE VERBS

#### Not every verb takes a direct object.

 The direct object completes the meaning of the verb, but not every verb needs completion.

#### For example:

I built last year.

- This sentence feels **incomplete**. Something is missing.
  What did I build?
- To complete the idea I should add a direct object: "I built a house last year."
- Now the idea is complete.

#### An opposite example:

I ran yesterday.

- This sentence is completely fine just like that, right?
- The idea is complete, and the verb doesn't require a direct object.

#### **Definitions**

Verbs that <u>take direct objects</u> are called **transitive verbs**.

The meaning of a transitive verb is **incomplete** without a direct object.

"She is drinking a glass of water."



Verbs that <u>don't take direct objects</u> are called **intransitive verbs**.

The meaning of an intransitive verb is **complete** on its own.

"She is standing."



#### LINKING VERBS

A linking verb is a verb that connects the subject with an adjective or a noun that identifies or describes it.

ed."

"She seems very satisfied."

#### **COMPLEMENTS**

A complement is a word or a group of words (usually an adjective or a noun), that is **used after linking verbs** (such as *be* and *become*). The complement **identifies** or **describes** the subject of the verb.

"She seems very satisfied."



## English Parts of a Sentence Exercises, Identify the Part of a Sentence

 Understanding English parts of a sentence is an important part of truly mastering English, so make sure you know what they are and can use them without hesitations.

#### **Parts of Speech Exercises**

(Follow the links and do the exercises. Send your TL a screenshot of EACH completed exercise with a score above 75%)

**English Parts of a Sentence Exercises 1** 

**English Parts of a Sentence Exercises 2** 

**English Parts of a Sentence Exercises 3** 

**English Parts of a Sentence Exercises 4** 

#### THE END!



Resource used for this material: Really-Learn-English.com. 2010-2014