

5118008 English for Software Developer

English Grammar 101 : Terminologies

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Part of this lecture slide is based on “Grammar: A Guide For ESE/EFL Teachers” by Jane E. Keeler

Grammars

- The grammar of a language is defined as a set of the rules determining how a sentence is constructed
 - prescriptive viewpoint
 - descriptive viewpoint
- The knowledge on grammar offers a framework to recognize the structure of a sentence and formulate interpretation

Part of Speech: Building Blocks

- Noun
- Pronoun
- Verb
- Adjective
- Adverb
- Preposition
- Conjunction
- Interjection

Noun

- Noun: a person, place, object or idea
- Common noun: a noun representing a class of objects
 - ex. dog, cat, man, book, education, love
- Proper noun: a specific thing
 - ex. Charlie, Susan, Cheongju, CBNU
- Noun phrase: a combination of words working like a noun
 - ex. a blue house, drinking coffee

Noun: Attributes

- Concrete vs. Abstract
- Countable vs. Noncountable
 - ex. bird, pencil, car, water, sugar, money, dollar
 - quantifier-noun agreement
- Singular vs. Plural

Pronoun

- Pronoun: a word that takes the place of a preceding noun
 - Ex. Ann works at Tom's shop \Rightarrow She works at his shop
- Personal subject pronoun: I, You, He, She, It, We, They
- Possessive pronoun: Mine, Yours, His, Hers, Ours, Theirs
- Demonstrative pronoun: This, That, These, Those
- Interrogative pronoun: Who, What, Whose
- Relative pronoun: Who, That, Which, Whom, Whoever
- Indefinite pronoun: Something, Somebody, Nobody, etc.
- Reflexive pronoun: Myself, Himself, Herself
- Reciprocal pronoun: Each other, One another

Verb

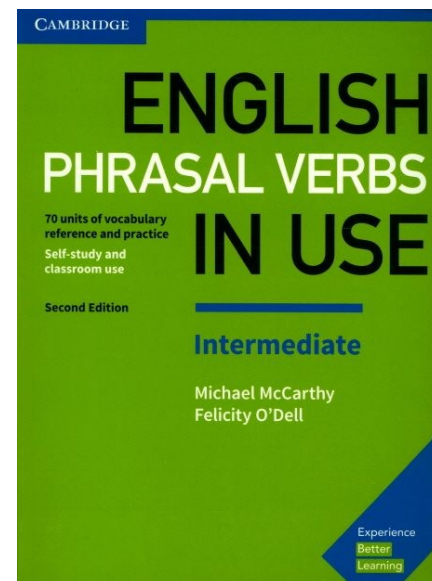
- A verb is to represent action or being of something
 - ex. I go to the park. Sue visits Mary, You are a student.
- Each verb has four principal parts
 - present, present participle, past, past participle
- There are 12 verb tenses in English
 - simple present, simple past, simple future, present progressive, past progressive,
 - regular and irregular verbs

Verb Tense

- Simple Present
 - ex. Tom goes to the park on Wednesdays
- Present Progressive: present participle
 - ex. He is thinking.
- Simple Past
 - ex. I lived in Korea in 2010
- Present Perfect: have/has + Past Participle
 - ex. I have been to Korea. I was there in 2010.
- Past Perfect: had + Past Participle
 - ex. I had taken a sip before I realized the milk had spoiled.

Phrasal Verb

- A verb made of a combination of two or more words
 - ex. I cut off my jeans and made some shorts
 - ex. We were cut off in the middle of conversation
 - ex. She looked up the meaning of a word in dictionary
 - ex. Do look me up the next time you are in London
 - ex. Turn off the lights when you leave the room
 - ex. Can you look after my dog this weekend?



Helping Verb

- a helping verb is a verb used with another verb to modify the tense, voice or mood
- Examples
 - I am going to speak at the ceremony tomorrow.
 - We are having spaghetti for dinner tonight.
 - The children have been waiting to have ice cream.
 - The Pavilion Apartments was built by M & M Builders.
 - You cannot change your parents.
 - I did have an imaginary friend.
 - Do you need any help?
 - Were you feeling nervous when you were on stage?
 - Tony will take care of the students.

Modal Verb

- a modal verb is used with another verb to express possibility, permission, intention, etc.
 - ex. would, could, should, can, might, may, must
- Modal verb + base form of a verb
 - ex. I would like to drink a Coke
- Modal verb + have + past participle of a verb
 - ex. I would have gone to the party, but I had to work

Adjectives

- a word that describes a noun (or pronoun)
 - usually come before the noun
 - ex. The black cat sat on the sunny deck and watched a blue bird. It waved its tail slowly.
- three forms: regular, comparative and superlative
 - ex. short, shorter, shortest
- articles: a, an (indefinite), the (definite)
- possessive adjectives: my, yours, his, her, its, our, their

Syntactic Structures

- Subject + Verb
 - Ex. The sun rises
- Subject + Verb + Complements
 - Ex. His face turned red
- Subject + Verb + Object
 - Ex. She reads a book
- Subject + Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object
 - Ex. She gave him a present
- Subject + Verb + Object + Complement
 - Ex. The gift made him happy

Adverbs (1/2)

- an adverb modifies a verb, adjective or another adverb
 - ex. gas prices rose sharply
 - ex. the profits were vastly lower this quarter
 - ex. the prices rose incredibly fast
- adverb of manner tell how something happens
 - usually come after a main verb, or a direct object if exists
 - ex. I ran quickly
 - ex. the cashier answered me rudely

Adverbs (2/2)

- Adverbs of frequency tell how often something happens
 - always, never, often, frequently, rarely, etc.
 - usually come before a main verb, or between be, or a modal or helping verb and a main verb
 - ex. I always drive my car to work
 - ex. I am often sleepy
- Adverb of degree describe the intensity or strength of an action
 - almost, hardly, unlikely, extremely, very

Prepositions

- A preposition describes the relation between a noun and the rest of the sentence
- Preposition of place
 - ex. The mouse is in the box
- Preposition of time
 - ex. It will start at 12 PM
- Preposition of movement
 - ex. I will walk from the park to the store
- Note that a preposition may have more than one meanings by conventions
 - ex. I got home just in time

Conjunction

- A conjunction connects parts of a sentence (clauses) together
 - for constructing an adverb phrase or adverse clause
- Conjunctions include:
 - coordinating conjunctions: connect two same kinds of words
 - ex. for, and, but, or, yet, so
 - subordinating conjunctions: link a dependent clause
 - ex. after, because, if, since
 - correlative conjunctions: transition from one idea to another one
 - ex. however, likewise, nonetheless

Interjection

- An interjection is to express feeling or emotion
- Examples
 - Great!
 - Exactly!
 - Awesome!
 - Seriously?