

Lecture 01

English essentials

Basic Sentence Structure

- In English, we have four main types of words: verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs
- An adjective describes nouns (Ex: delightful person, nice things..)
- An adverb describes verbs and adjectives
- Adverbs and adjectives are static (i.e no plural, no conjugation)
- Basic sentence: Subject + verb + object

Asking A Question (Yes or no question)

- You have to use modal verbs: May, might, would, will, can, could, shall, should, ought to, must.

Examples:

- May I ask you a question?
- Shall you give me some space?
- Ought you to play sport?
- Could you explain that again?

Asking A Question (Yes or no question)

- You can also use auxiliary verbs: to Do, to have, to be

To be:

- Are you okay? Is he happy? Am I doing well? Is he insane?

To have:

- In fact, you can not ask with to have; however, we need to clarify stuff

“To have” can be reversed when used as in perfect tenses: you’ve got it -> Have you got it?

But when used as a verb (property) you will need “do”: you have a pen -> do you have a pen? (in to be too, ex: it is working correctly -> is it working correctly?)

Do is used with all others: you play guitar -> do you play guitar

WH questions

- Typically: Wh-word + yes/no question – Information

Most common ones are: What, which, who(subject), where, when, why, whom(object), whatsoever, whichever, whose(possession), how

Examples:

What **time** does the movie start? which time do you prefer (Here Which = What)

Whose book is this? (to whom does this book belong to?) To whom did you say that?

- Whatsoever, whichever are typically not for asking questions:

I have no idea whatsoever where my keys are.

There is no evidence whatsoever to support the claim.

Whichever route you take, you will reach destination (= any choice)

Tag questions

- You are working, aren't you? (= right?)
- You are not playing, are you?
- It is raining, isn't it?
- I am doing my homework right, aren't I? (=/= amn't I)
- I am not sick, am I?
- You did a great job, didn't you?
- You had a bad day, didn't you? (hadn't you is acceptable)
- He is having his best shots, isn't he?
- You work hard, don't you?
- You will succeed, won't you?

Articles (A, The, An)

- An, A is used for saying “**one of countable something**” ex: An apple, a horse

You use “An” when the first **sound** is not a consonant (an hier, an octopus)

You use “A” when the first **sound** is a consonant (a hollow shirt, a picture)

- In plural, don't use A/An: apples, animals, pictures.

You use “the” when we know what we are talking about via common sense, or previously mentioned objects. Ex: The sun, the moon, The act, The way you are talking..)

N.B: You can still use it in plural: The moons, The suns, The acts

Pronouns

- Personal:
 - I, you, he, she, it, they, we
 - Me, you, him, her, it, them, us
 - My, your, his, her, its, their, our
 - Possessive: Mine, yours, his, hers, its, theirs, ours
 - Reflective: Myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, themselves, ourselves (selves)
 - Reciprocal: Each other (two entities), one another (More than two entities)
The team members supported one another (Each other not very Academic)
- N.B: "They" can be used for (Unknown gender(single); plural of it, he, or she) Ex: who are they?

Pronouns

- Indefinite pronouns: All, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, each, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, nobody, none, one, several, some, somebody, someone

- This, That, Those, These

This: single, near object

That: single, far object

These: plural, near object

Those: plural, far object

Adverbs

- Adverb: Ad (Addition) + verb (verbum which is word in latin)
- **Adverbs with verbs:** to indicate how the action is performed
Adverb + **Whole Main** verb (Ex: she sings beautifully, it works correctly, it is working correctly, he is doing well "NOT good") ""she beautifully sings -> poem""
- **Adverbs with adjectives:** degree or quality of adjective
Adverb + Adjective (Ex: he is very good)
- **Adverbs with adverbs:** degree of other adverbs
adverb + adverb (Ex: He speaks very fluently)
- **Adverbs with clauses:** provide speaker's viewpoint or attitude toward a statement
Adverb + ", " + "clause . Ex: Frankly, I don't care.

Adverbs

- **Adverbs of place:** here, there, everywhere, somewhere, anywhere, nowhere, above, below, underneath, behind, in front, near, far, outside, inside
- **Adverbs of time:** now, then, today, tomorrow, soon, late, yesterday, later
- **Adverbs of degree:** very, quite, extremely
- **Adverbs of frequency:** always, usually, often, sometimes, occasionally, seldom, rarely, hardly ever, never

N.B: you can form an adverb that ends with “l” by adding “ly” (ex: beautifully)

At, in, on

- At: **specific** point, location, or time

I am waiting at the bus stop

The meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m.

I am good at playing the piano

- In: enclosed space, general area (countries, cities, rooms, regions), or period of time(months, years, seasons, decades)

He lives in New York city

The book is in the library

He was born in may

- On: surface, position above something, days of the week, or specific dates

The cat is sitting on the table

We will meet on Monday

Our anniversary is on August 15th, 1936

At, in, on

- I am in/on/at a car

In -> inside the vehicle

On -> above the vehicle

At -> specific location near the vehicle

- I am at/in/on the school

At, in, on

- On:
 - On the bus
 - On the train
 - On the motorcycle
 - On the bicycle
 - On the boat
- In:
 - In the car
 - In the taxi
 - In the airplane
 - In the submarine
 - In the spacecraft