

Additional grammar classifies words based on eight parts of speech: the **verb**, the **noun**, the **pronoun**, the **adjective**, the **adverb**, the **preposition**, the **conjunction**, and the **interjection**.

Each part of speech explains not what the word *is*, but how the word *is used*. In fact, the same word can be a noun in one sentence and an adjective in the next.

Examples :

- **Books** are made of ink, paper, and glue.

In this sentence, « books » is a noun, the subject of the sentence.

- Deborah waits patiently while Bridget **books** the tickets.

Here, « books » is a verb, and its subject is *Bridget*.

- The town decided to build a new **jail**.

In this example, « jail » is a noun, which is the object of the infinitive phrase 'to build'.

- The sheriff told us that if we did not leave town immediately he would **jail** us.

Here, « jail » is part of the compound verb « would jail ».

Nouns:

A noun is a word used to name a person, animal, place, thing, and abstract idea. A noun can function in a sentence as a subject, a direct object, an indirect object, a subject complement, an object complement, an appositive, an adjective or an adverb.

Types of nouns :

Common nouns: refer to general, unspecific categories of entities. They name any person, place or thing. **e.g :** man, table, country, hotel,

Proper nouns : name particular persons, places or things and begin with a capital letter. **e.g:** Robert, France, Hilton Hotel, the Mississippi, Christmas, Islam, ...

Concrete nouns: name anything (or anyone) that can be perceived through our physical senses : touch, sight, taste, hearing, or smell. **e.g:** car, wood, board, music,

Abstract nouns: used for theoretical concepts. They name anything that cannot be perceived through the five physical senses. **e.g:** courage, wisdom, luck, ...

Collective nouns: name a group of persons, things, or animals. They are used as one unit. You need to recognize collective nouns in order to maintain subject-verb agreement. A collective noun is similar to a non-countable noun, and is roughly the opposite of a countable noun. **e.g:** team, flock, public, police, class, crew, army, ...

Note: - When they try to refer to a group as a single unit, a collective noun takes a singular verb. **e.g:** Some cynics claim that the American family **is** no longer functioning.

- When referring to a group's members as individuals, the collective noun takes a plural verb. **e.g:** the Rogers family **have been** painting their parks on their lawn.

Pronouns :

A pronoun is a word that is used in place of a noun or a noun phrase (called its antecedent) to avoid repeating it. It is also used to make writing clearer, smoother, and less awkward.

In the sentence, "**Roberto feels that he can win the race,**" *he* is the pronoun, and *Roberto* is the antecedent. In the sentence, "**Terry and Jim are the best friends,**" *they* is the pronoun, and *Terry* and *Jim* are the noun antecedents.

There are eight types of pronouns.

Personal pronouns: they refer to specific persons or things (that have been already mentioned) and change their form to indicate number, gender, and case. They can be **subjective personal pronouns** (**I, you, she, he, it, we, you, they**) used to act as *subjects of a sentence*: **I do** the washing; **he does** the cooking; **they watch** TV.

Personal pronouns can work also as direct or indirect objects (**objective personal pronouns**) of a verb or after a preposition. They are **me, her, him, it, us, you, them**. **e.g:** I saw **her** yesterday. (direct object)

You told **us** news. (indirect object) She travelled only *with* **him**. (object of preposition)

Possessive pronouns: are forms of personal pronouns that show ownership or relation. They are: **mine, yours, hers, his, its, ours, theirs.**

Example: The smallest gift is **mine**. (subject complement)

His is on the kitchen counter. (subject of the sentence)

Reflexive pronouns : are used to refer back to the subject of the sentence and stand as objects (of a verb or a preposition). They indicate

someone or something acts upon itself. They are formed by combining personal pronouns with « self » or « selves »: **myself, yourself,**

himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves.

Example: She stretched **herself** out in the sofa. I wrote it *to* **myself**.

Reflexive pronouns are also used after nouns or pronouns to emphasize them. They are called **intensive pronouns.** **e.g:** The tea

Myself gave me her address.

Demonstrative pronouns: they point to and identify a noun or a pronoun. They are : **this, these, that, those.** **e.g:** **This** is my seat ; **th**

ours. (subjects)

this, that, these, and those can also be used as demonstrative adjectives.

Example: **This** beach was quite empty last year.

Interrogative pronouns: are used to ask questions. They are : **who, whom, which, what, whose, whoever, whichever, whatever.**

Who » acts as the subject of a verb, while « whom » acts as the object.

Example: **Who** wants to see the doctor first ? (**I** want to see the doctor first)

Whom do you think we should invite? (we should invite **our neighbours**)

Relative pronouns: are used to introduce relative/ adjective clauses. They are : who, whom, that, whose, which, whomever, whomsoever, whichever.

Example: George, **who** is my best friend, is a teacher.

Indefinite pronouns : refer to identifiable but not specified persons or things.

They do not indicate exactly who or what they are. The most common indefinite pronouns are : *all, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, each, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, much, little, no one, none, nobody, one, several, some, someone, somebody, either, neither, other, others, another.*

Example: - **Many** were invited to the lunch but only twelve showed up.

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Reciprocal pronouns : are used for an action or feeling that is reciprocated. The two most common reciprocal pronouns are "each other" and "one another".

Example: - You can shout at **each other** as much as you like outside.

and Tom don't talk to **one another**, there will be

Adjectives :

An adjective is a word that modifies nouns and pronouns. It defines and describes them.

Example: - A **tall** boy stepped from the **curious** crowd. (description)

- **That** boy is my brother. (pointing out)

- **Twelve** children and **several** parents attended. (telling how many)

Kinds of Adjectives :

Qualitative/ descriptive adjs : fat, heavy, square, yellow, golden, clever,

Quantitative adjs : the big, new, white house.

Demonstrative adjs : this, that, these, those. (they must be followed by a noun)

Relative adjs : these women gossip a lot.

Distributive adjs : each, every, either, neither, both.

Each/ every man carried a torch.

Quantitative adjs : all numerals+ a, some, any, many, much, little, few, no, one.

She has **seven** apples.

Could you cut me **some** bread.

Interrogative adjs : which, what, whose.

Whose car is this ?

What papers do you read ?

Possessive adjs : my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their.

The girls are playing with **their** dolls.

Proper adjs/ adjs of nationality : Algerian, American, French, ...

They refer also to geographical places, religions, holidays, dates, names of people or organizations, titles,

Italian food - **Islamic** nation - **Parisian** styles.

Verbs:

There are several types of **verbs** to be studied: the action verb, the linking verb, and the helping verb.

A/ An action verb tells what action (often a physical action) a subject is performing, has performed, or will perform.

e.g : - My father **delivers** packages to department stores each day.

→ Action verbs are classified by whether they must be followed by an **object** (a noun or pronoun that completes the action of the verb, showing who or what is acted upon)

These are called *transitive verbs*. So a **transitive verb** expresses action that has an object.

e.g : - The staff manager **convoked** the engineer.

Action verbs can also be *intransitive*. **An intransitive verb** expresses action that has no object.

e.g : - The students **sang**. - The salesgirl **smiled**.

A **linking verb** expresses a state of being or a condition rather than an action. The most common linking verbs are the forms of “to be” (*is, was, were, been, being, am*) and *appear, become, feel, grow, look, remain, seem, smell, sound, stay, taste, and turn*.

A verb often includes one or more **helping verbs**, sometimes called auxiliary verbs. The verb and its **helping verbs** form a verb phrase. Common helping verbs are *am, is, are, was, were, be, been, being, has, had, have, do, does, did, may, might, must, can, could, shall, should, will, and would*.

e.g : - The comet **has been** approaching earth for two years. - The day **has** finally arrived.

A verb can be used as a different part of speech according to its meaning in the sentence.

e.g : - We often **study** geography together. (verb) - He has a large desk in his **study**. (noun)

- We finished our work in **study** hall. (adjective)

- He drew a **picture** of the sea. (noun) - Can you **picture** me as an acrobat? (verb)

- Our **picture** window is cracked. (adj)

Adverbs :

An adverb is a word that modifies (qualifies or limits) verbs, adjectives, other adverbs or groups of words. Adverbs most commonly modify verbs by telling how, when, where, or to what extent.

g : - He reads **carefully**. (how) - He reads **late**. (when) - He reads **everywhere**. (where)
- He reads **widely**. (to what extent)

adverbs sometimes modify adjectives and other adverbs.

g : - He is **truly** dedicated. / Rex is **very** happy.
- He studies **terribly hard**. / Warren walks **too quickly**.

Ends of Adverbs :

Adverbs of manner : Tell **how** something happens: fast, slow, hard, well, quickly, kindly, happily, patiently,

They are usually placed after the main verb or after the object. e.g. He swims **fast**.

Adverbs of place : Tell **where** something happens : here, there, up, down, near, far, away, right, left, west, south, southwards, downwards, inside, anywhere, everywhere, somewhere, nowhere, elsewhere, home.....

They are usually placed after the main verb or after the object.

The students are walking **home**. He threw the ball **downstairs**.

Adverbs of time : Tell **when** something happens, and **for how long** : now, soon, still, today, yesterday, tomorrow, tonight, early, late, recently, presently, after, before, afterwards, yet, then, just, immediately, next, all day, not long,.....

Adverbs of frequency : Tell **how often/ how many times** something happens : once, twice, often , rarely, never, ever, always, usually, occasionally, seldom, sometimes, daily, everyday, monthly, annually, ...

Occasionally, culture interferes with business.

Adverbs of certainty : Express **how certain or sure** we feel about an action or event : certainly, surely, obviously, definitely, probably, undoubtedly,

They are placed before the main verb, but they come after 'to be', or between the auxiliary and the main verb.

She **definitely left** the house on October 1998. She **is probably** in Paris.

Adverbs of degree : Tell about **the intensity or degree** of an action, an adjective or another adverb : very, fairly, rather, too, totally, almost, just, nearly, quite, hardly, much, enough, completely, partially, extremely, such, even, pretty, only ... → He is **really good**.

Adverbs of opinion : Tell about the **speaker's opinion/point of view** about an action : frankly, ideally, officially, personally, objectively, theoretically, honestly, seriously, ...

They are usually placed at the beginning and are separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma.

Personally, I can't do what she had done.

Interrogative adverbs : Are used **to ask questions** : when, where, why, how.

They are placed at the beginning and are always followed by the main verb.

When will she come ? **Where** do you come from ?

Conjunctions :

Conjunction connects words, phrases or clauses. There are three types of conjunctions: *coordinating conjunctions* , *correlative conjunctions* , and *subordinating conjunctions*.

1- **Coordinating conjunctions** are single connecting words that join words, phrases, or independent clauses of a sentence together. They

then link similar grammatical parts of a sentence together (noun + noun/ phrase + phrase / clause + clause) They are seven : *for, and, nor,*

not, or, yet, and so. (FANBOYS)

g : - The boys **and** girls worked at the fair.

Let's meet **at the beach or in front of the hotel**.

I **would like to help you, but I will be busy tonight.** → **compound sentence**

2- **Correlative conjunctions** are pairs of connecting words that work together to coordinate two items. They are : **both...and, either...or,**

neither....nor, not only....but also, and whether....or.

g : -**Both Henry and Henrietta** are leaving the dance now. (2 nouns)

3- **Subordinating conjunctions** join an **independent clause** (which contains both a subject and a verb and can act as a complete sentence)

and a **dependent clause** (which also contains a subject and a verb, but is not a complete sentence).

g : - As the police got nearer, the crowd started throwing stones. (time) → **complex sentence**

dependent/subordinate clause **independent/main clause**

Prepositions

preposition is a word that shows the relationship between a noun or a pronoun and another word in the sentence. It may refer to direction, time, location, or ownership.

g : The man swam *under* the bridge. (*Under* connects the idea of *swam* and *bridge* .)

Interjections :

An **interjection** is a word that expresses strong feeling or emotion. It comes at the beginning of the sentence. It is often followed by an exclamation point (!) when the emotion is strong or a comma (,) when the emotion is mild.

Wow Bravo Dear Eek Eh Goodness gracious Gosh Hallelujah Hey Horrors Hurrah Hurray Mmm Oh Oh

Oops Ouch Phew Really Ugh Well Whoa Whoops Wow Yea Yeh Yes Yippe

g : - *Ouch* ! it bit me.

- *Oh*, are you the father ?

Practice: Identify the part of speech of the **underlined** word in each of the following sentences:

Helen has a yearly membership at the local health club.

Helen contributes yearly .

Mike arrived late .

The late delivery cut down on sales in the supermarket.

The clown chased a dog around the ring and then fell flat on her face.

The geese indolently waddled across the intersection.

Yikes! I'm late for class.

Bruno's shabby thesaurus tumbled out of the book bag when the bus suddenly pulled out into traffic.

Mr. Frederick angrily stamped out the fire that the local hooligans had started on his verandah.

Later that summer, she asked herself, "What was I thinking of?"

Although she gave hundreds of zucchini away, the enormous mound left over frightened her.

Everywhere she went, she talked about the prolific veggies.

The manager confidently made his presentation to the board of directors.

That suitcase is hers.

Everyone in the room cheered when the announcement was made.

The sun was shining as we set out for our first winter camping trip.

Small children often insist that they can do it by themselves.

Dust covered every surface in the locked bedroom.

Exciting new products and effective marketing strategies will guarantee the company's success.

Module : Written Expression
Lesson 2: *Sentence patterns*

Level : 1st year LMD
Lecturer: Mrs. Bencharef. S

We have already mentioned that a sentence has two main parts: a subject and a predicate. Some sentences express the writer's thought by means of a subject and verb only: *He worked / she left*. Most sentences, however, have within the complete predicate one or more words to add to the meaning of the subject and predicate. These elements are called **complements**, and they function as **direct objects, indirect objects, subject complements, or object complements**.

Pattern 1 : subject + intransitive verb

Dogs bark.

The baby is sleeping.

The glacier melted.

I can't sleep.

The thief escaped.

My uncle died.

I can't concentrate.

Everyone was waiting.

The roof collapsed.

A lot of people were screaming and crying.

An intransitive verb is a verb that cannot have a direct object. We use it to talk about simple events and actions: (go, arrive, sleep, fall, die, depart, happen, disappear, rain, snow, hesitate, occur, pause, cough, faint, grow, shiver, sneeze, leave, walk, ...)

→ while intransitive verbs are never followed by an object, they can be followed by modifiers such as *adverbs, adverbial clauses* and *phrases* (also called **adjuncts**)

- I slept until noon.
- He died suddenly.
- The man runs along the beach every morning.

→ They cannot be used in the passive.

Pattern 2 : subject + transitive verb + direct object (D.O)

Children **need** attention (*what ?*)
D.O

They **played** soccer.

I **ate** an apple.

He kicked a small ball.

I will cut the grass.

The man had no money.

We **visited** our aunt. (*who/whom ?*)

He **met** a friend.

We **should keep** our surroundings clean.

The thief **thought** himself rather lucky.

Students **found** the exam difficult.

Object complements complete the meaning of the direct object by either describing it (when they are adjectives) or renaming it (when they are nouns)

pattern 6 : There/it + verb (be) + subject

It is nice to meet you. (= To meet you is nice)

empty V S.C S
word

It is always interesting to find out about your family history.

There is a good reason to rejoice.

There is nothing to say.

There are two shops in the village. (= two shops are in the village)

In this pattern, the subject came after the verb. The word “there” or “it” are not the real subjects ; they are « empty » words that fill the position where you usually find the subject.

Module : Written Expression

Lesson 3: Types of Sentences

Lecturer: Mrs. BENCHAREF. S

Level : 1st year LMD

Sentences can be classified according to their structure: simple, compound, complex, and compound complex.

1- **Simple sentence:** contains only one full subject and only one predicate. It consists of one clause (independent) and takes the form of:

- a- A statement/ declarative sentence: - He lives in New York.
- b- A question: - How old are you?
- c- A request/ order: - Please close the door.
- Don't walk on the grass.
- d- An exclamation: - What a terrible temper she has.
- How lucky you are!

→ Simple sentences can be very short (e.g. John laughed.) or very long containing a **compound subject**, **compound predicate** and some phrases:

mashed *avocado*, minced *garlic* and olive *oil* **should be blended** thoroughly, **whipped** briefly, and **served** with warm tortillas.

subject

predicate

2- **Compound sentence:** contains two or more **independent clauses** (each containing its subject and predicate). The independent clause compound sentence can be joined by 3 different ways:

a- **Punctuation alone (semicolon):** - The weather was very bad; all classes were cancelled.

indep clause 1

indep clause 2

-Joe made the sugar cookies; Susan decorated them.

If the two independent clauses are very closely related and the reader has enough information to understand the relationship between them from the context alone, we can join the clauses using a semicolon without a conjunction.

b- **Coordinating conjunctions:** (FANBOYS) - The weather was very bad, **so** all classes were cancelled.
independent clause **independent clause**

{ **for and nor but or yet so** }

- She did not cheat on the test, **for** it was not the right thing to do.

- I will buy the red car, **or** I will lease the blue one.

- I really want to go to work, **but** I am too sick to drive.

- Keith worried about the wounded bird, **yet** he did not want to be responsible for it. (**yet =but**)

- She did not wake up early, **nor** *did she* attend class.

- Rachel was not ready for marriage, **nor** *was she* ready for any other type of commitment.

(**Important:** When using “**nor**”, we invert the subject and the verb of the clause.)

- Night came on, rain fell heavily, **and** we all get wet.
(3 independent clauses)

c- **Conjunctive adverbs:** - The weather was very bad; **therefore**, all classes were cancelled. (*consequence*)

-He woke up early to be on time; **however**, he missed his flight. (*contrast*)

-I like you a lot; **in fact**, we should be best friends. (*emphasis*)

-Your dog got into my yard; **in addition**, he dug up my petunias. (*addition*)

Moreover, also, besides, furthermore, additionally = to continue the same point
Consequently, as a consequence, hence, therefore, thus, accordingly = to show cause and effect
However, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the contrary, otherwise, instead, on the other hand= to show contradictions
for example, for instance, namely, notably= to introduce examples
In fact, certainly, definitely, of course, indeed = to add emphasis
Similarly, likewise, alternatively= to show comparison

Conjunctive adverbs are transition words that are used to connect one clause to another. They are also used to show sequence, contrast, cause and effect, and other relationships.

Important: When we use a conjunctive adverb to form a compound sentence, it is preceded by a **semicolon** and followed by a **comma**, as in the examples above.)

CAREFUL:

My dog enjoys being bathed but hates getting his nails trimmed. → this sentence contains only one clause even if there are 2 verbs. These two verbs (in the example) are joined by the coordinating conj “but” to form a compound predicate and does not introduce a new clause. Remark also that there is no comma (,) before “but”. → So it is a **simple sentence**.

S (compound) Predicate

Now consider the following sentence:

My dog enjoys being bathed, but he hates getting his nails trimmed. → this sentence contains 2 clauses because each one is made of a subject + predicate. Remark that after “but” there is the subject “he”+ the verb “hates”, so it is a new clause. The 2 clauses are joined by “but” (preceded by a comma) → So it is a **compound sentence**.

indep clause 1 indep clause 2

3- Complex sentence: contains an independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. A *dependent clause* contains a full subject and predicate but does not form a grammatically complete sentence= it cannot be a sentence by itself.

It usually begins with a specific word (**subordinating conjunction** or a **relative pronoun/ adverb**) that attaches the clause to an independent clause.

The dependent clause has three (3) types: 1) **adverbial** (subordinate) **clause**
 2) **relative** (adjective) **clause**
 3) **noun clause**.

a- Adverbial Clauses

→ An adverbial clause generally modifies the action of the main/independent clause. It is called “**adverbial**” because it functions as an **adverb** modifying the independent clause by giving information of time (when the main action was done?), of place (where the action was done?), reason, manner, etc.

The adverbial / subordinate clause begins with a **subordinating conjunction**. There are many types of subordinating conjunctions.

- **Adverbial clause of time:** [*when- whenever- while- after- before- as- as soon as- since- till- until- once*]

- I will go out (when I finish studying.) = **When** I finish studying , I will go out.
 independent clause dependent (adverbial clause of time)

*note: if the subordinate/adverbial clause starts a complex sentence, it is **followed by a comma**.

- **As soon as** I have finished, I will give you a call.
- I had a shower **after** I ran.
- Ronnie begins to sneeze **whenever** he opens the window.
- **Once** they saw the car coming, the birds flew away from the street.
- You must keep practising **until/till** you get it right.
- **Before** we go on vacation, we must make reservations.
- Jill slipped **as** she was getting off the bus.

***note:** *before- after – since- till- until* are often prepositions. They are conjunctions when they are followed by a subject + verb

Consider:

- I can't see you *before lunch*. → Here, "before" is a preposition because it is followed by a noun (lunch)

- I can't see you *before I finish my lunch*. → Here, "before" is a conjunction because it is followed by a clause (subject + predicate)

• **Adverbial clause of place:** [*where- wherever- anywhere- everywhere*]

- **Wherever** there is a beach, sun worshippers will gather.
- I will follow you **everywhere** you go.

• **Adverbial clause of reason:** [*as- because- since- that- while*]

- All classes were cancelled **because** the weather was bad.
- My parents were disappointed **that** I did not get the scholarship.
- **As** you are out of money, think of getting a second job.
- **Since** you did not finish revising, you have to stay here and work.

***note:** remark that conjunctions like " as, since, .." can be also used to express time. So you have to be careful to the meaning of the whole sentence to decide which type is the adverbial clause.

• **Adverbial clause of result:**

[so+ adj + that
	so + adv + that
	such (a) + noun + that

- I am working **so hard that** I didn't notice the time.

dependent	indep
(adverbial clause of result)	clause
- He ran **so quickly that** I could not catch him.
- It was **such a beautiful day that** we went for a walk.

• **Adverbial clause of Concession/opposition:** [*although- even though- though- even if- in spite of the fact that- despite the fact that.*]

- **Though** Kate is clever, she is not doing well in class.
- **Although** it rained a lot, they enjoyed their holidays.
- We are going out **even though** it is cold.
- I did not get the job **in spite of the fact** that I had the necessary qualifications.

Becareful: "in spite of/ despite of" introduce a phrase not a clause.

e.g. We went outside in spite of the rain. → 1 clause → simple sentence.

<u>preposition</u>	<u>noun</u>
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***note:** *Concession* is when 2 ideas are opposite: the independent clause, which is the result, comes in the contrary of the idea (situation) expressed in the dependent clause.

• **Adverbial clause of Contrast:** [*while- whereas*]

- Boys are encouraged to be adventurous **while** girls are always told to stay clean.
- Canada is cold **whereas** Algeria is hot.

*By contrasting 2 clauses, we are comparing (not really opposing) between them.

• **Adverbial clause of Purpose:** [*so that- in order that- so as*]

- I asked him to move **so as** I could see the screen.
- She lived in England for six months **so that** she could perfect her English.
- He took the course **in order that** he could get a better job.

***Becareful:** "in order to" introduces a phrase not a clause.

e.g. He took the course in order to get a better job. → simple sentence (contains 1 clause)

<u>Adverbial phrase</u>

• **Adverbial clause of Condition:** [*if- unless – only if- provided (that)- providing (that)- as long as-*

non-restrictive
relative clause

It is already specific/defined)

I have met Mrs. Anderson, **who lives next door.**

* A *relative clause* that is not essential is called a *non-restrictive/non-defining clause*. It just gives more information/details about the because this latter is already specific (identified). If it is removed, we lose some details, but the overall meaning of the sentence remains the same.

Other examples:

Only those persons whose tickets have been punched may enter the gym.

Notice that if you take out the relative clause, we do not know which persons may enter the gym. The clause is essential= restrictive.

David works part-time at Burger king, which is only two blocks from school.

Notice that the relative clause simply provides extra information and therefore can be taken out without hurting the meaning of the sentence. It is non-essential= non-restrictive.

c- Noun clauses

The noun clause is the third type of dependent clause. It is a clause used/functions as a noun in a sentence. Like a noun, it can be a **subject, subject complement (predicate nominative), direct object, indirect object or object of a preposition**. It begins with **that, Wh-words (who, whoever, whose, which, what, whatever, where, when, ..) or if/ whether**.

[How it happened is still a mystery.] independent clause
dep clause
(noun clause)

Here, the clause "How it happened" is the noun clause (the dependent clause). It is the subject of the sentence. So, the independent clause is, in fact, the entire sentence "How it happened is still a mystery."

S V S.C

Subject { Whoever wants the last piece of cake can have it.
How the boy behaved was not very polite.
That he should enjoy sport is understandable.

Direct object { I don't know who stole my phone.
Tell me when you signed the contract.
I can't understand why you did such a thing. (remember that a direct object comes after a transitive verb.)
Joanne remembered that it was Thursday.
Tell me if he has signed the contract.
Ask him whether he has signed it.

Indirect object { We will give whoever asks for free tickets.

Subject complement { The decision was that the defendant was innocent. (remember that a subject complement comes after a "linking verb": be, become,...)
He became what he always wanted to be.

Object of preposition { Everyone was pleased by how well the ceremony went. (here the noun clauses are objects of the prepositions "by, about")
The movie was about why smoking is dangerous.

4- **Compound-complex sentence:** contains at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.

- *After he won*, he called his mother; she was very surprised.
dep clause indep indep
- The man *who made the offer* is here, *but* he is too late.
- We'll have a discussion *when the department manager comes*, *and* we'll continue the lecture afterwards.
- All classes were cancelled *because the weather was bad*, *and* students were told to listen to the radio to find out *when classes would begin again*.
- *Although it started to rain*, we decided to continue walking, *and* we all get wet.
- Laura forgot her friend's birthday, *so* she sent her a card *when she finally remembered*.

Module : Written Expression

Level : 1st year LMD

Lesson 4: Sentence errors

1. Sentence Fragments

A sentence fragment is a part of a sentence presented as if it was a complete sentence. That is, it begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, question mark or exclamation point, but it does not include one of the essential elements required of a grammatically complete sentence, a subject and a verb. Usually, fragments occur unintentionally and are correctable.

- incorrect** Went to the store yesterday. (This is a fragment because the sentence misses a SUBJECT)
- correct** **I** went to the store yesterday.
- incorrect** I am upset that it raining every day. (Here the verb auxiliary is missing)
- correct** am upset that it **is** raining every day.
- incorrect** The man in that house. (Here there is no predicate)
- correct** The man in that house **lives alone**.
- incorrect** Before we go out. (this sentence misses a complete thought. It is only a dependent clause)
- correct** **We have to lock the door** before we go out.

The most common types of sentence fragments are: (1) **phrases**, (2) **subordinate clauses**, (3) **appositives**, and (4) **parts of compound predicates** capitalized and punctuated as if they were complete sentences.

You can eliminate sentence fragments in one of two ways: (1) join the fragment to a sentence nearby, or (2) develop the fragment itself into a complete sentence.

In joining fragment to a sentence, you may need a comma, a colon, a dash, or no punctuation at all. A dash and a colon indicate a more definite break in thought than a comma; a colon is expected before items in a series.

1. **Phrase fragment**

a- **Join a phrase fragment to an existing sentence using punctuation.**

- incorrect** He has many hobbies. Including stamp collecting, bird watching, and vegetable gardening.

correct ----- , including -----(revising with a comma)

incorrect We had a traditional thanksgiving dinner. Turkey with stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, gravy, and pumpkin pie.

correct -----: turkey ----- (revising with colons)

incorrect Dolores washes her hair twice a day. Much too often.

correct ----- much ----- (revising with a dash)

incorrect Tina would rather have tea. With lemon.

correct ----- with ----- (Revising without punctuation)

b- Rewrite the phrase fragment as a sentence (giving it the components it lacks)

incorrect We left Rome and traveled northward to the picturesque little hill towns of Italy. Also to Florence and Venice.

correct -----, **We** also went to -----

incorrect Since I was done with the exams, I put my pen and paper down. Waiting for the teacher to collect papers.

correct ----- . **I was** waiting -----

2- Subordinate clause fragment

A subordinate clause contains both a subject and a predicate, but it is introduced by a subordinator, either a subordinating conjunction (after, because, when, as, if, ...) or a relative pronoun (that, which, who, whom, what) and therefore is not an independent complete sentence.

a- Join a subordinate clause fragment to an existing sentence

incorrect The president met with his staff every week. So that problems were rarely ignored.

correct -----, **so** -----

incorrect Students dislike Mr. Jones. Because his classes can be tough.

correct -----**because** -----

incorrect He arrived to the island of Madagascar. Where he had someone to meet.

correct -----, **where** -----

b- Rewrite the phrase fragment as a sentence

incorrect The president met with his staff every week. So that problems were rarely ignored.

correct ----- . **Problems** -----

3- Appositive fragment

An appositive phrase is a noun or noun equivalent that identifies or explains another noun.

incorrect Marco read two good books during his vacation. Scott O'Dell's Island of the Blue Dolphins and N.

Scott Momaday's House Made of Dawn.

correct -----, -----

incorrect John met his old primary school teacher. Mr. Shepard.

Lesson 4: Sentence errors

2. Run-on sentences and comma splices

A **run-on sentence** (also called **fused sentence**) is a sentence in which two or more independent clauses are written one after another with no punctuation.

incorrect Daniel was late we left without him.

Daniel was late therefore we left without him.

A **comma splice** happens when two independent clauses are incorrectly joined by a comma without a coordinating conjunction or by a comma and a conjunctive adverb.

incorrect Daniel was late, we left without him.

Daniel was late, therefore, we left without him.

➤ The ways to **correct** these two sentence errors are the same.

1. **Add a period (and make separate sentences):** Daniel was late. We left without him.

2. **Add a semicolon:** Daniel was late; we left without him.

3. **Add a coordinating conjunction:** Daniel was late, so we left without him.

4. **Add a subordinating conjunction:** **Because** Daniel was late, we left without him.

Note: In the sentence “Daniel was late, *therefore*, we left without him.” the conjunctive adverb “therefore” is put between 2 commas (which is wrong= this what created the comma splice)

→ It should be revised by replacing the comma by **a semicolon** = Daniel was late; *therefore*, we left without him.

Other examples:

incorrect { **Run-on:** I am thinking of skipping the English class it is really boring.

Comma splice: I am thinking of skipping the English class, it is really boring.

correction: I am thinking of skipping the English class. It is really boring.

correction: I am thinking of skipping the English class; it is really boring.

correction: I am thinking of skipping the English class, **for** it is really boring.

correction: I am thinking of skipping the English class **because** it is really boring.

incorrect { **Run-on:** It was raining I went out anyway.
Comma splice: It was raining, I went out anyway.

correction: It was raining. I went out anyway.

correction: It was raining; I went out anyway.

correction: It was raining, **but** I went out anyway.

correction: **Although** it was raining, I went out anyway.

Practice: Say which sentence is run-on (RO) or comma splice (CS) then correct them using the previous methods indicated. If the sentence is correct write (Correct).

1. Anna likes fruits, she doesn't like vegetables. _____
→ _____
2. The fog came suddenly we could not find our way. _____
→ _____
3. Eli is a volunteer firefighter, Ben is an event planner. _____
→ _____
4. I had to buy new sneakers, my mother threw my old pair. _____
→ _____
5. A newly arrived international student faces many problems; for example, he has to cope with a new culture. _____
→ _____
6. New York City is very cosmopolitan there are people from many cultures and ethnic groups living there. _____
→ _____
7. Because of the rapid expansion of human knowledge, it is difficult to keep encyclopedias current. _____
→ _____
8. We have spent all our money, consequently, we won't be dining out tonight. _____
→ _____
9. John is always late to work, but nobody seems to care. _____
→ _____
10. Hot temperature weather is nice, however, high temperatures are dangerous for certain people. _____
→ _____

Parallelism (Parallel structure) is an important element in English writing, especially when you are listing, comparing and contrasting items or ideas. Parallelism means that each item in a list or comparison follows the same grammatical pattern. If you are writing a list and the first item in your list is a noun, write all of the following items as nouns also. If the first item is an infinitive verb phrase, make all the others infinitive verb phrases; if it is a dependent clause, make all of the others dependent clauses. If you are making a comparison or contrast, make sure that the items you are comparing or contrasting are the same. **Parallelism** creates a sense of rhythm and balance within a sentence.

Examples

- She likes **novels**, short **stories**, and **poems**. (Parallel nouns)
- Our cat ran **across the lawn** and **under the hedge**. (Parallel phrases)
- His hobbies are **fishing**, **hiking**, and **painting**. (Parallel gerunds)
- **John bikes to the park** and **Kevin plays football in the playground**. (parallel clauses)

BUT

If you do not follow the rule of parallelism your writing will contain **Faulty parallelism**; an error in writing.

→ **incorrect** Kayo is *beautiful*, *young*, and *a talented artist*. (= **not parallel**)

adj adj noun phrase

{ **correct** Kayo is beautiful, young, and **talented**. (= **parallel**)

correct Kayo is **a beautiful young woman** and **a talented artist**.

→ **incorrect** Good students attend class, they do their homework, and practice speaking English.

correct Good students attend class, **do** their homework, and practice speaking English.

→ **incorrect** Driving a car requires coordination, patience, and to have good eyesight.

correct Driving a car requires coordination, patience, and **good eyesight**.

When to use parallelism ?

I- Use parallelism for coordinate elements:

When you connect ideas with *and*, *but*, *or*, and *yet*, write the connected ideas in parallel form.

- I like **football, basketball, handball, and tennis**. (all nouns)
- New born babies don't do much during their first few weeks; they **eat, sleep, wet, and cry**. (all verbs)
- Pesticides have harmful effects **on humans, on animal life, or on the environment**. (all phrases)

➤ **The following sentences show errors in parallel form and how to fix them.**

1. Noun phrase

incorrect The students like Ms. Gibb's class because of her friendly manner, she explains clearly, and her funny jokes.

correct The students like Ms. Gibb's class because of her friendly manner, her clear explanations, and her funny jokes.
(= the noun phrases are parallel)

2. Prepositional phrases

incorrect My grandfather earned his living by fishing and he sold little wooden birds that he carved.

correct My grandfather earned his living by fishing and by selling little wooden birds that he carved.
(= the prepositional phrases are parallel)

3. Infinitives

incorrect The students like to listen and to speak but not writing in English.

correct The students like to listen and to speak but not to write in English. (= the infinitives are parallel)

4. Gerunds

incorrect The students like listening and speaking but not to write in English.

correct The students like listening and speaking but not writing in English. (= the gerunds are parallel)

5. Verbs

incorrect Will you fly, travel by train, or renting a car?

correct Will you fly, travel by train, or rent a car? (= the verbs are parallel)

6. Adjectives

incorrect My great-grandfather was uneducated but a wise person.

correct My great-grandfather was uneducated but wise. (= the adjectives are parallel)

II- Use parallelism for correlative construction:

When you connect ideas with **correlative conjunctions**: *both.... and*, *not only...but also*, *either...or*, *neither...nor*, and *whetheror* use parallel form after both parts of the paired conjunction.

My grandfather can speak **both** *French* **and** *English* fluently.

➤ **The following sentences show errors in parallel form and how to fix them.**

1. Prepositional phrases

incorrect College students use computers *not only* for schoolwork *but they also* play games on them.

correct College students use computers *not only* for schoolwork *but also* for games. (= the phrases are parallel)

2. Adverbial clauses

incorrect He failed physics *either* because of too many missed labs *or* because he never opened the textbook.

correct He failed physics *either* because he missed too many labs *or* because he never opened the textbook.
(= the clauses are parallel)

3. Adverbs

incorrect Emails allow you to communicate *both* quickly *and* without paying a lot of money.

correct Emails allow you to communicate *both* quickly *and* economically. (= the adverbs here are parallel)

4. Verbs

incorrect When I first arrived at college, I was so homesick that I could *neither* sleep *nor* I didn't want to eat.

correct When I first arrived at college, I was so homesick that I could *neither* sleep *nor* eat. (= the verbs are parallel)

5. Infinitive phrase

incorrect I couldn't decide whether to stay at school or maybe I should return home.

correct I couldn't decide whether to stay at school or to return home. (the infinitives are parallel)

III- Use parallelism for compared and contrasted ideas:

Use parallel structure in comparisons containing *than* or *as*.

incorrect I wanted a better explanation **rather than** to remain confused.

correct I wanted to receive a better explanation **rather than** to remain confused. (here the infinitive forms are parallel)

incorrect His raw intelligence was **as important as** working hard.

correct His raw intelligence was **as important as** his hard work. (here the nouns are parallel)

lesson 4: Sentence Errors

4- Choppy Writing

Choppy writing is writing in which there are a lot of short sentences. **Referring to another definition, choppy sentences** are sentences that are too short and often repeat the same words. Too many short simple sentences can make writing appear unsophisticated and ideas seem disconnected.

Writing too many of them together is not good style. Readers have to work harder to understand the relationship among the ideas because there are no connecting words to help them.

Solutions to improve choppy writing

1.Show logical connection between ideas: by using words that show cause and effect such as *because, since, and so*, and words that show contrast such as *but, yet* and *although*.

Choppy: She took dance classes. She had no natural grace or sense of rhythm. She eventually gave up the idea of becoming a dancer.

Revised: She took dance classes, **but** she had no natural grace or sense of rhythm, **so** she eventually gave up the idea of becoming a dancer.

2. Join multiple actions by the same agent into one sentence: by using subordination (phrases beginning with *if, when, after, as*, etc.) and coordination (sentences and phrases joined by conjunctions like *and, but, so*, etc.).

Choppy: Bears emerge from hibernation in the spring. They wander through wetlands. They feed mainly on grasses.

Revised: **When** bears emerge from hibernation in the spring, they wander through wetlands **and** feed mainly on grasses.

3. Use appositives: (phrases that add information about a noun).

Choppy: Jesse Ventura has denied an interest in running for the senate. Ventura is the former governor of Minnesota.

Revised: Jesse Ventura, **the former governor of Minnesota**, has denied an interest in running for the senate.

4. Integrate minor details: You don't need a new sentence for each piece of information.

Choppy: The boy asked his father a question. The boy is five years old. The question was about death.

Revised: The five-year-old boy asked his father a question about death.

Practice1: Edit these choppy sentences one or two sentences so they are more interesting to read.

1. Vegetables are good for you. Vegetables taste good. Vegetables are easy to prepare.
2. I like movies. I go to movies every weekend. I like action movies best.

3. Elephants are big. They live in Africa and Asia. They eat a lot of food.
4. Phil is a thrill seeker. He enjoys skydiving and bungee jumping. He goes every chance he gets.
5. I hate housework. Housework is very boring. It takes too much time. I especially dislike mopping the floor and ironing.

Practice2: Improve choppy writing in the following paragraph by combining sentences.

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were two famous U.S. presidents. Their lives were very different. Washington's parents were rich landowners. Lincoln's family was poor. Washington and Lincoln had similar ideas about slavery. Washington had owned slaves. He gave his slaves their freedom. Lincoln freed all slaves. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863. Washington was known for his honesty. Lincoln's nickname was "Honest Abe".

✓ **To Correct:**

• **Combine sentences, coordinating equal ideas and subordinating secondary information.**

- The similarities and differences discussed in this paragraph are more or less equal in content. It is best to connect the ideas in the previous paragraph using coordinating words such as **however, and, and but.**
- They were famous presidents. **However,** their lives were different.
- Washington's parents were rich. **But** Lincoln's family was poor.
- Washington freed his own slaves. **And** Lincoln freed all slaves.
- Other sentences express secondary information. It is best to subordinate these ideas by writing dependent clauses beginning with 'who and whom'
- Washington freed his slaves. **Who** He had owned slaves.
- Lincoln freed all slaves. **When** He issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

❖ **Revised paragraph**

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were two famous U.S. presidents; **however, their** lives were very different. Washington's parents were rich landowners. Lincoln's family was poor, **but** Washington and Lincoln had similar ideas about slavery. Washington **who** had owned slaves gave his slaves their freedom, **and** Lincoln freed all slaves **when** he issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863. Washington was known for his honesty, **and** Lincoln's nickname was "Honest Abe".

Practice: The following paragraphs contain choppy writing. Improve it by combining sentences. There is more than one way to make the revisions.

1- Washington and Lincoln were leaders during times of crisis. Washington was the top general of the army during the Revolutionary War. It began in 1775. Lincoln was president during the U.S. Civil War. It began in 1861.

2- The young country was in danger of breaking apart after these two wars. It needed a strong leader to stay united. Washington was a strong president. Lincoln was a strong president. Both men believed in keeping the country together. Both men worked very hard to keep the country from splitting apart.

3- America finally won its independence from England. Washington helped write the U.S. Constitution. The constitution made the federal government strong. The Civil War ended in 1865. Lincoln's strong leadership helped reunite the North and the South.