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# NEW TEXTBOOK OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR

## CHAPTER I

### 1. THE SENTENCE AND THE PARTS OF SPEECH

WORDS AND SENTENCES.—When we speak, we put *words* together, and make *sentences* out of them. All connected speech takes the form of sentences.

Definition:—*A sentence is a combination of words that makes a complete sense.*

In order that a combination of words may make a sentence, it must *make a complete sense*, that is, *something must be said about something else*. Every sentence must, therefore, consist of two parts:

I. The **Subject**, which names the *person* or *thing* about which something is said in the predicate.

II. The **Predicate**, which *says something* about the person or thing denoted by the subject.

CLASSES OF WORDS.—Words are divided into different classes according to their use in the sentence. These classes are eight in number.

(1) **NOUNS.**—The subject of a sentence is usually the name of some *person* or *thing*, that is, a **Noun**.

*Washington* was a great man.

*Washington* is the capital of the *United States*.

(2) **PRONOUNS.**—The subject of a sentence may be a **Pronoun**, which is a word used instead of a noun. The chief use of pronouns is to save the repetition of nouns.

Washington was a great man. *He* (Washington) was elected president.

Washington is the capital of the United States. *It* (Washington) is in the District of Columbia.

(3) **VERBS.**—The principal word in the predicate is always a **Verb**, which is a word used for predicating, that is, for saying something about the subject. A verb may express *action* or *being*.

*Action*:—I read a book.

(I perform the *act* of reading a book.)

*Being*:—The book *is* interesting.

(The book has the quality of *being* interesting.)

The shortest sentence is a sentence of two words, a noun, or pronoun, and a verb; as, "*Trees grow*," "*Birds fly*," "*We live*." Nouns and verbs are therefore the most important kinds of words. When a sentence contains more than two words, the verb and its subject are still the principal words in it; and the other words are all additions to the subject or the verb.

(4) **ADJECTIVES.**—Words usually added to nouns are **Adjectives**. An adjective is said to *qualify* its noun, that is, to express some quality belonging to the person or thing denoted by the noun.

*Good men* = men having the *quality of goodness*.

*Fine houses* = houses having the *quality of fineness*.

(a) Some adjectives only limit the application of the noun, without expressing any quality.

*These men.*

*Three men.*

*Few men.*

(b) The adjectives "a" (or "an") and "the" are called **Articles**. They do not really form a class of words distinct from adjectives, but differ from other adjectives in one respect. An adjective joined to a noun is not grammatically a necessary word, and may be left out without affecting the grammatical correctness of the sentence.

This is *a* [good] book.

Not so with the article. An article *must* be used where it is needed. It makes part of the noun, as it were; hence its name "article," which means "a small joint." The article cannot be left out in the following sentences:

This is [*a*] *good book*. Give me [*the*] *book*.

(5) **ADVERBS**.—Words usually added to verbs are **Adverbs**.

Weeds grow *rapidly*. Swallows fly *swiftly*.

Adverbs, like adjectives, are qualifying words. An adjective qualifies a noun or a pronoun. An adverb may qualify any part of speech except a noun or a pronoun.

Many adverbs are made from adjectives by adding *ly*.

She has a *sweet* voice.

She sings *sweetly*.

He is a *skillful* teacher.

He teaches *skillfully*.

(6) **PREPOSITIONS**.—A noun or a pronoun must stand in some relation to some other word in the sentence. The most common relations in which a noun or a pronoun stands in a sentence are as subject or object of the verb.

A noun as subject:—A *school* is a place for learning.

A noun as object:—We like our *school*.

When a noun stands neither in the subjective nor in the objective relation to the verb, the relation of the noun to the rest of the sentence is frequently denoted by a **Preposition**, such as "in," "on," "at," "to," "by," "for," "with," etc.

Boys and girls go *to* school.

A preposition is placed before a noun, and expresses the relation in which the noun stands to some other word in the sentence. In the above example, the preposition "to" expresses the relation of meaning in which the noun "school" stands to the verb "go."

(a) A noun or a pronoun depending on a preposition is called its object. In the above example, the noun "school" is the object of the preposition "to."

(b) The preposition and its object form what is called a **Phrase**. A phrase is a qualifying expression, and usually takes the place of an adverb or an adjective. A phrase which is added to a verb is called an **Adverbial Phrase**; one added to a noun is called an **Adjective Phrase**.

#### *Adverb*

He lives *here*.

He lives here *now*.

He received me *kindly*.

#### *Adverbial Phrase*

He lives *in Nanking*.

He lives here *at present*.

He received me *with kindness*.

#### *Adjective*

A *noted* man.

A *distinguished* officer.

#### *Adjective Phrase*

A man *of note*.

An officer *of distinction*.

(7) **CONJUNCTIONS**.—A **Conjunction** joins words and phrases to one another, or one sentence to another.

*Cats and dogs. A large and strong dog. You and I.*

*She lived and died a virgin. Slowly and sadly we laid him down. Both above and below the bridge.*

*The lion is noble-looking and of great strength. He is poor, but he is honest.*

(8) **INTERJECTIONS.** An **Interjection** is not connected, as all other kinds of words are, with the rest of the sentence, but is merely thrown into a sentence to express some emotion of the mind.

My father, *alas!* is dead.

*Oh!* what a fall was there, my countrymen!

All speech is made up of these eight classes of words. These are, therefore, called

### THE EIGHT PARTS OF SPEECH

Adjective	<b>NOUN</b>	<b>VERB</b>	Adverb
	Pronoun		Preposition
	Conjunction		
	Interjection		

### THE PARTS OF SPEECH DEFINED

(1) *A noun is a word used as the name of some person or thing.*

(2) *A pronoun is a word used instead of a noun.*

(3) *A verb is a word used for predicating.*

(4) *An adjective is a word added to a noun to qualify it or to limit its application.*

(5) *An adverb is a word used to qualify any part of speech except a noun or a pronoun.*

(6) *A preposition is a word placed before a noun or a pronoun, to express a relation of meaning between the noun or the pronoun and some other word in the sentence.*

(7) *A conjunction is a word used for joining words, phrases, and sentences to another.*

(8) *An interjection is a word or mere sound thrown into a sentence to express some emotion.*

Exercise:—Name the parts of speech and state how each word is used.

The town stands in a pretty valley. This great river flows between beautiful banks. Many strange animals live in the sea. The frightened horse dashed wildly along the road. We went to Nanking and Hankow. We went from Nanking to Hankow. On a low bench, under a spreading tree, sat an old man. A pipe was in his mouth. His right hand rested on his knee. We crossed the river in a small boat. We waited until the train came. When the teacher entered the room, the students rose. That little boy speaks English and French fluently. He likes English very much. He speaks English like an Englishman.

DOUBLE PARTS OF SPEECH.—There are some kinds of words which are two parts of speech combined in one.

(1) RELATIVES.—(a) A *Relative Pronoun* such as “who,” “which,” etc., is a pronoun and conjunction combined.

He is the man *who* came to my house.

“Who” is a pronoun, because it stands for the noun “man,” and is the subject of the verb “came.” “Who” is also a conjunction, because it joins two sentences.

(b) A *Relative Adjective* is an adjective and conjunction combined.

He spoke in French, *which* language I do not understand.

“Which” is an adjective joined to the noun “language,” and is also a conjunction joining the two sentences.

(c) A *Relative* (or *Conjunctive*) *Adverb*, such as "where," "when," etc., is an adverb and conjunction combined.

This is the place *where* I was born.

My father was dead *when* I was born.

"Where" and "when" are adverbs, because they qualify the verb "was born." They are conjunctions, because they join two sentences.

(2) VERBALS.—(a) A *Participle* is a sort of verbal adjective.

I saw a boy *flying* a kite.

"Flying" is a verb, because it is a form of the verb "fly," and can take an object; as, "flying a kite." It also does the work of an adjective, because it is joined to the noun "boy," which is not its grammatical subject. The participle is so called, because it participates in the nature of the verb and the adjective.

(b) An *Infinitive* is a sort of verbal noun.

(a) *To speak* English is difficult.

(Compare :—English *conversation* is difficult.)

(b) I am learning *to speak* English.

(Compare :—I am learning English *conversation*.)

"To speak" is a verb, because it is a form of the verb "speak," and can take an object; as, "to speak English." It is also a noun, because it is the subject of the sentence in example (a), and the object of the verb "learning" in example (b). For the meaning of the word "infinitive," see under "verbs: infinitives."

(c) A *Gerund* is also a sort of verbal noun.

(a) *Reading* good books is improving.

(b) I like *reading* good books.

(c) I am fond of *reading* novels.

"Reading" is a verb, because it is a form of the verb "read," and can take an object; as, "reading books," "reading



novels," etc. It is also a noun, because it can be used as the subject of a sentence (a), as the object of a verb (b), or as the object of a preposition (c).

Exercise :—*Classify the words in italics, and state how each word is used.*

I know the boy *who* broke the window. I have just received the picture *which* you sent me. This is the man of *whom* I spoke. Tell me the name of the book *that* you want. Do you know any place *where* I can bathe? Do you know the reason *why* he is so popular? A child *whose* parents are dead is called an orphan. *To forget* an injury is the mark of a noble mind. We played chess, *which* game I am very fond of. I received a letter *written* in English. The house *where* Shakespeare was born, still stands. It is wrong *to tell* a lie. Here is the man *who* wants *to learn* English. He passes most of his time in *reading* and *writing*. I saw a man *reading* a newspaper by the fire, and another man *writing* at the desk. *Riding* is a good exercise. I met him *riding* in the park.

## 2. KINDS OF SENTENCES

Sentences may be classified with reference to their *structure* and to their *use*.

According to their *Structure*, sentences are divided into three classes, *Simple*, *Complex*, and *Compound*.

I. A SIMPLE SENTENCE contains only one subject and one finite verb, that is, a verb which is not an infinitive, or a participle, or a gerund, but one that is used as a predicate verb.

*Birds fly.* *Rain falls.*

(a) It must not be imagined that a simple sentence is necessarily a short sentence. Any number of words may be added to the subject or the predicate.

(b) A participle, being joined to a noun like an adjective, can make part of a simple sentence.

*A crow, stealing a piece of meat at a butcher's shop, flew to a high branch of a tree.*

A sentence containing more than one subject and more than one predicate is either complex or compound.

II. A COMPLEX SENTENCE consists of a principal clause and one or more dependent or subordinate clause.

A **Clause** is a sentence which makes part of a larger sentence.

I learned English | when I was young.

This sentence is made up of two parts, each of which is a sentence; but as they make part of a large sentence, they are called clauses.

"I learned English" makes a complete statement by itself; it is an **Independent** or **Principal Clause**.

"When I was young" does not make a complete statement; it must *depend* on the principal clause, in a *subordinate* relation to it; it is a **Dependent** or **Subordinate Clause**.

Dependent clauses are introduced by clause connectives, which are—

(a) Conjunctions:—"That," "if," "though," "because," etc.

(b) Relative and interrogative pronouns:—"Who," "which," "that," "what."

(c) Relative and interrogative adverbs:—"When," "where," "how," "why."

An independent sentence becomes a dependent clause, if any of these connectives is placed at its head.

*Sentence*

*Dependent Clause*

*He is not rich.*

*I know that he is not rich.*

*He is poor.*

*If he is poor, he is honest.*

*He is diligent.*

*He prospers because he is diligent.*

*He came yesterday.*

*This is the man who came yesterday.*

III. A COMPOUND SENTENCE consists of two or more independent or coördinate clauses, which are connected by "and," "or," "but," etc.

The country is rich, *and* the city is the center of its wealth.

The man recovered from the bite, *but* the dog died.

The army must gain a victory, *or* our cause will be ruined.

Compound sentences are often contracted to save the repetition of the same word or words.

*Ellipsis of subject*

He speaks well, but [*he*] writes poorly.

The king loved his people, and [*he*] was loved by them.

*Ellipsis of predicate*

Either you are wrong, or I [*am wrong*].

He is going, but not I (=but I *am not going*).

*Ellipsis of subject and verb*

He is poor, but [*he is*] honest.

He speaks English, but [*he does*] not [*speak it*] well.

Contracted compound sentences must be distinguished from simple sentences with compound subjects, which are inseparable.

The great *general and statesman* is dead.

*He and I* are great friends.

Exercise:—*Classify the following sentences :*

(1) Socrates proved that virtue is its own reward. (2) Socrates proved virtue to be its own reward. (3) He was only a boy, so he was pardoned. (4) As he was only a boy, he was pardoned. (5) Being only a boy, he was pardoned. (6) No one doubts that you are able to do it. (7) No one doubts your being able to do it. (8) When we speak, we make use of words. (9) We make use of words in speaking. (10) My brother was sick, and could not go. (11) My brother being sick could not go. (12) As my brother was sick, he could not go. (13) My

brother's sickness prevented him from going. (14) The manner of his escape remains a mystery. (15) How he escaped, remains a mystery. (16) He is poor, but honest. (17) Though he is poor, he is honest.

According to their *Use*, sentences are divided into four classes—*Declarative*, *Interrogative*, *Imperative*, and *Exclamative*.

(I) A **DECLARATIVE SENTENCE** makes a statement or assertion, that is, affirms or denies something. This is the usual form of the sentence.

The sun shines in the daytime.

The sun does not shine at night.

(II) An **INTERROGATIVE SENTENCE** asks a question. Interrogative sentences may be introduced by

(a) **Auxiliary Verbs**, such as, "do," "can," "may," "must," "shall," "will," "have," "be," etc.

*Does* the sun shine at night?

*Have* you met him? *Shall* you meet him to-day?

(b) **Interrogative Pronouns** (*who?* *what?* *which?*), **Interrogative Adjectives** (*what* book? *which* book?), or **Interrogative Adverbs** (*when?* *where?* *how?* *why?*).

*When* does the sun shine?

*What* does the sun give us?

(III) An **IMPERATIVE SENTENCE** expresses a command or a request. In an imperative sentence, the subject is usually understood.

*Come* [thou or you] here. *Be* [thou or you] diligent.

(IV) An **EXCLAMATION** (or **Exclamatory**) **SENTENCE** gives passionate expression to some feeling in

connection with the assertion made. Exclamative sentences are usually introduced by the exclamative Interrogatives "How" (adverb) or "What" (adjective), or by an interjection.

*How* foolish he is ! *What* a foolish man he is !

*How* wonderful is man ! *What* a piece of work is man !

*Oh!* *what* a fall was there, my countrymen !

Exclamative sentences, though introduced by interrogatives, differ from interrogative sentences in two ways:

- (1) There is no inversion of the subject and auxiliary verb as in interrogative sentences.

*Interrogative* :—How fast does he run ?

*Exclamative* :—How fast he runs !

- (2) The exclamative "what" is followed by "a," if the noun is singular.

*Interrogative* :—What foolish fellow has done this ?

*Exclamative* :—What a foolish fellow you have been !

Exclamative sentences may be in various other forms.

- (a) In the **Declarative** form :—*Oh ! I shall be drowned !*

- (b) In the **Interrogative** form :—*What shall I do !*

- (c) In the **Imperative** form :—*Give me liberty, or give me death !*

- (d) In the **Optative** form :—*May you be happy ! God bless you !*

*Oh ! that he were here !* (I wish he were here.)

*Would that I were dead !* (I would I were dead.)

- (e) In various

**Elliptical** forms :—

*That I should come to this !* (I never expected that I should come to this.)

*Poor fellow ! to imagine that he should be pardoned !* (What a poor fellow he is to imagine that he should be pardoned !)

The same sense may sometimes be expressed in three different ways:

- (a) *Declaratively*:—He is a very good boy.
- (b) *Interrogatively*:—Is he not a good boy?
- (c) *Exclamatively*:—What a good boy he is!

*How many possible forms of sentences are there?  
What are they?*

#### *Examples*

*Simple declarative*:—He came just now.

*Complex declarative*:—He is the man who came to my house.

*Complex interrogative*:—Who is the man that came just now?

*Compound interrogative*:—Who is he, and what does he want?

*Complex imperative*:—Be diligent in youth, that you may not come to want in old age.

### 3. ELEMENTS OF THE SENTENCE

The elements of which sentences are composed, may be considered with reference to their **Structure** and their **Function**.

*By Structure*.—The elements of the sentence are classified, according to their structure, as—

#### I. Words.      II. Phrases.      III. Clauses.

II. A PHRASE is any combination of words that expresses a single idea, and is equivalent to a single word. A noun qualified by an adjective, a verb qualified by an adverb, etc., are instances of phrases; but what we usually understand by “phrase” in grammar is the combination of preposition and noun, or an infinitive or a participle with its adjuncts. Phrases are of three kinds:

- (a) A **Noun Phrase** is an infinitive with its adjuncts.  
 An infinitive phrase is frequently introduced by an interrogative; as, "how to swim," "what to do."  
 A noun phrase is equivalent to a noun, and may be the subject or object of a verb.

*Noun phrase as subject:—How to do this is more than I know.*

*Noun phrase as object:—I know how to do it (=the way to do it).*

- (b) An **Adjective Phrase** is equivalent to an adjective, and is joined to a noun.

*A man of note = a noted man.*

*A man of courage = a courageous man.*

- (c) An **Adverbial Phrase** is equivalent to an adverb, and may be joined to a verb.

*He treated her with kindness (=kindly).*

*The letter seems to have been written in haste (=hastily).*

### III. DEPENDENT CLAUSES are of three kinds:

- (a) A **Noun Clause** is equivalent to a noun, and may be the subject or object of a verb.

*Noun clause as subject:—That we shall succeed (=our success) is certain.*

*Noun clause as object:—I know that we shall succeed.*

A noun clause may be introduced by the conjunction "that," "if," "whether," or an interrogative.

#### *Interrogative Sentence*

*I said, "Are you ill?"*

*Is this true or not?*

*Who is he?*

*What does he want?*

*Where does he live?*

#### *Interrogative Noun Clause*

*I asked if he was ill.*

*I do not know whether it is true or not.*

*I do not know who he is.*

*Ask him what he wants.*

*I do not know where he lives.*

- (b) An **Adjective Clause** is joined to a noun, and is equivalent to an adjective. An adjective clause may be introduced by a relative pronoun (*who, which, that*) or a relative adverb (*when, where, why*).

The purse *which was lost* (=the lost purse).

The day *on which I was born* (=My birth-day).

The place *where I was born* (=My native place).

- (c) An **Adverbial Clause** is equivalent to an adverb, and qualifies a verb. Compare:—

*When* did you go?

I went *yesterday*. (*Adverb.*)

I went *in the afternoon*. (*Adverbial phrase.*)

I went *after school was over*. (*Adverbial clause.*)

*Why* did you not go?

I did not go *because I was sick*. (*Adverbial clause.*)

Adverbial clauses are introduced by the subordinate conjunctions “when,” “if,” “though,” “because,” “as,” “that,” etc.

Exercise:—Classify the phrases and clauses, and state how each is used.

- (1) He acts *like a child*. (2) His actions are those of *a child*. (3) I do not know *what to do with him*. (4) Do you know the name of the man *who came yesterday*? (5) I do not know *who came yesterday*. (6) *When the cat is away*, the mice will play. (7) *Unless you leave the house at once*, I will send for the policeman. (8) I went there *that I might see him*. (9) He will succeed, *because he works hard*. (10) A tree is known by the fruit *that it bears*. (11) Can you tell me *where he is staying*? (12) I do not remember the name of the hotel *where he is staying*. (13) I returned home *after I had finished my work*. (14) He promised *that he would soon pay back the debt*.



(15) All *that glitters* is not gold. (16) Let us go to bed, *as it is very late*. (17) *What is one man's meat* is another man's poison. (18) He tried *for a long time, before he succeeded*. (19) It is evident *that you have made a mistake*. (20) I do not know *when he will come*.

**By Function.**—According to their function, the elements of a sentence are classified as—

I. The Substantive Element.

II. The Finite (or Predicate) Verb.

III. The Adjective Element.

IV. The Adverbial Element.

V. The Connectives.

I. The SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENT is a noun or some substitute for a noun. It includes (a) *nouns*, (b) *pronouns*, (c) *infinitives*, (d) *gerunds*, (e) *noun phrases*, and (f) *noun clauses*.

II. THE FINITE VERB.

III. The ADJECTIVE ELEMENT is an adjective or some substitute for an adjective. It includes (a) *adjectives*, (b) *adjective phrases*, and (c) *adjective clauses*. It also includes—

(d) *Participles* and *infinitives* joined to nouns:

*Singing* birds. Birds *singing* in a bush.

*Spoken* languages. The languages *spoken* in America.

Water *to drink*. Something *to eat*.

(e) *Nouns* joined to other nouns:

(a) Nouns in the possessive form:—Philip's son.

(b) Nouns in apposition:—Alexander, son of Philip.

IV. The ADVERBIAL ELEMENT is an adverb or some substitute for an adverb. It includes (a) *adverbs*, (b) *adverbial phrases*, and (c) *adverbial clauses*. It also includes—