

The Concept of English Sentence

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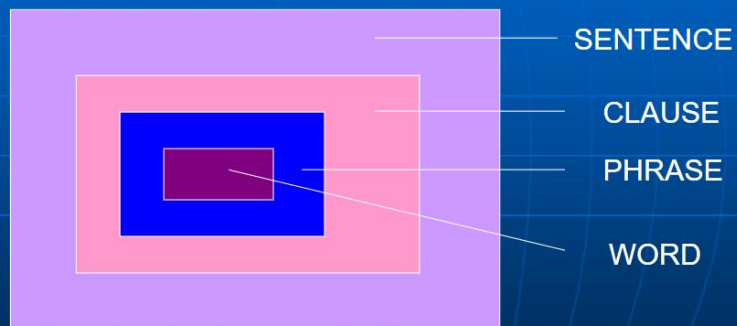
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The Concept of English Sentence Units

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Sentence Units



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Word

- The smallest of the units that make up a sentence
- A single item belonging to some **lexical category** having an identifiable **meaning**
- Examples:
 - **engine** ----- the lexical category of **noun (N)**
 - **run** ----- the lexical category of **verb (V)**
 - **new** ----- the lexical category of **adjective (A)**
 - **always** ----- the lexical category of **adverb (Adv)**

Phrase

- A group or string of words which is not a clause (taking neither a Subject nor a Predicate)
- Functioning as one of the lexical categories, for examples:
 - **complicated device** ----- noun phrase (NP)
 - **has severely damaged** ----- verb phrase (VP)
 - **definitely wrong** ----- adjectival phrase (AP)
of high intelligence in A girl of high intelligence
 - **in June** in She bought the car in June -----
adverbial phrase (AdvP): function

Clause

- The largest sentence unit which is a reduced form of a sentence: it takes a Subject and a Predicate
- An independent clause can function as a simple sentence



Clause

Independent (can stand by itself)

e.g. You can find any information on the World Wide Web

Dependent (part of an independent clause)

e.g. - When you log on the Internet, ..
- that it is a new method.



Sentence

- A string of words which is regarded as capable of standing alone to express a coherent thought
- It should consist of at least one independent clause (S + Predicate)

Grammatical Functions

- A sentence may be seen as comprising five Gramatical Functions:
 - Subject (S)
 - Verb (V) – also referred to as Predicate
 - Object (O) – it can be “direct” or “indirect”
 - Adjunct (A)
 - Complement (C)

Simple-Sentence Patterns (1)

- S + V
Rachel is working
- S + V + C
Google is a search engine
- S + V + A
He will work in the laboratory
- S + V + O
They have completed the project
- S + V + O indirect + O direct
The boy sent the girl flowers

Simple-Sentence Patterns (2)

Alternative :

- S + V + O direct + prep + O indirect
The boy sent flowers to the girl
- S + V + O + A
The scientist has made his experiment carefully
- S + V + O + C
People have elected him governor
- S + V + O + C + A
People elected him governor last week

Compound Sentence

- A compound sentence consists of two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinator such as conjunctions, semicolons, or conjunctive adverbs (e.g. *in contrast*, *consequently*, etc).

Conjunctions

- They include the set of words such as: *and*, *but*, *for*, *or*, *nor*, *so*, and *yet*.
- They show the following relations:
 - **Simple addition:**
The experiment didn't work as expected, and the team decided to stop it
 - **Addition of a Negative Point:**
Many people have never accessed the Internet, nor have they been familiar with any IT jargons.

- **Contrast:**

The project is faced with a serious problem, but the experts insist that they will continue it.

- **Logical Consequence:**

He never went to the lab, for he is allergic to chemical substances.

The substance is very sensitive to heat, so it is stored in the fridge

- **Choice:**

You can go to the library to search for references, or you can browse in the Internet

Complex Sentence

- A complex sentence has an independent clause joined by one or more dependent (subordinating) clauses.
- The clauses are connected by a subordinator such as **because, since, after, although** or **when, if** or a relative pronoun such as **that, who** or **which**.
- The dependent clause may be the first or second clause in the sentence
- If the first is dependent, a comma usually separates the two clauses

■ Examples:

1. *If you miss me*, just call my name.
2. *The boss sacked him* since he didn't show up for work for a week.
3. Although I love her, *I wouldn't mind losing her for her happiness*.
4. *The girl that he loves loves another man*.
5. When I need you *I just close my eyes, and I am with you*.

