

## Pro-forms

**pro-form** is a substitute form, that is a word or expression which has no detailed meaning of its own but has the function of 'standing in the place' of another (often more complex) expression. Personal pronouns are the most familiar examples of pro-forms. Other examples are the pronoun *one* (for example in *this one*, *a new one*) and the verbal forms *do* and *do so* (substituting for a **predicate** or a **predication**).

*John searched the big room and the small one.*

More usually, however, pronouns replace noun phrases rather than nouns:  
*The man invited the little Swedish girl because he liked her.*

There are pro-forms also for place, time, and other adverbials under certain circumstances:

Mary is *in London* and John is *there* too.

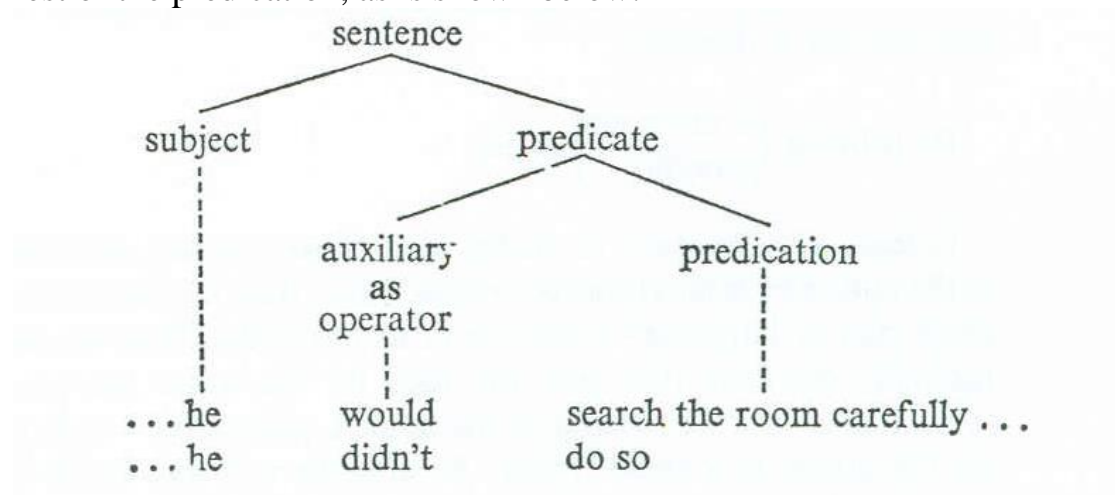
Mary arrived *on Tuesday* and John arrived *then* too.

John searched the big room very *carefully* and the small one less *so*.

But *so* has a more important pro-function, namely, to replace — along with the 'pro-verb' *do* — a predication:

She hoped that he would *search the room carefully before her arrival* but he didn't *do so*.

Here *do so* replaces all the italicized portion, the head verb *search* and the rest of the predication, as is shown below:



Frequently, however, the pro-predication is achieved by the operator alone:

He didn't *give her an apple*. B: Yes, he *did*.

They suspected that he had *given her an apple* and he *had*.

Finally, it may be briefly observed that the use of the pro-forms greatly facilitates sentence connection, the conjoining of sentences to form 'compound sentences' and the subordination of one sentence within another to form 'complex sentences'.

Replace each underlined part by a *pro-form* (which may consist of more than one word) which can be used when the information contained in the sentence is repeated:

- 1 The man who has just spoken is Benjamin Hall.
- 2 I never imagined that such a thing could happen.
- 3 An idea suddenly occurred to the Members present.
- 4 It occurred to them while Benjamin Hall was speaking.
- 5 Hand the man at the gate your ticket.
- 6 I said, 'The man at the gate!'
- 7 I'm afraid I haven't a ticket. | /
- 8 They'll be issuing some new tickets tomorrow.
- 9 They'll be issuing some new tickets tomorrow.
- 10 Ferguson saw the fire and Parkinson saw it too.
- 11 Are you sure the baker started it?
- 12 A Are we on the right road?  
B Yes I think we're on the right road.
- 13 Well, I think we're not on the right road.
- 14 Do you enjoy walking in the rain?
- 15 Do you really want to get soaked through?
- 16 I would hate you to think that of me.
- 17 I believe he wants to be left alone.
- 18 You think you can't answer this question, but you can answer it.
- 19 If you haven't renewed your licence, you should renew your licence without delay.
- 20 If you haven't renewed it, you should renew it.