



# A University Grammar of English

Lecture No. 1

# Sentence Elements

- Subject (S)
- Verb (V)
- Complement (C)
- Object (O)
- Adverbial (A)

# Element Realization Types

## The Verb: (Finite & Non-Finite)

Whether finite or non-finite, the verb phrase can consist of one word, or of more than one word, in which case the verb phrase consists of a *'head verb'* preceded by one or more *'auxiliary verbs'* as it is indicated by the *Four Basic Verb Combinations Rules* below:

# Basic Verb Combinations Rules

- A. Modal + inf.** as in: We can do nothing.
- B. Perfect (have+p.p)** as in: He had forgotten their wedding anniversary.
- C. Progressive (be+ v+ing)** as in: The wind is growing stronger.
- D. Passive (be+p.p)** as in: He was challenged rudely.



# Basic Verb Combinations Rules

## Further Combine

- **A+B=** He must have typed the report himself.
- **A+C=** He may be typing at the moment.
- **A+D=** The report could be typed by Jane.
- **B+C=** He has been typing all morning.
- **B+D=** The report has been typed already.
- **C+D=** The report is being sent to the FBI.
- **A+B+C=** He must have been typing the report himself.
- **A+B+D=** The reports must have been typed by the secretary.

# Intransitive Verbs

- Verbs such as *agree, explode, sleep*, which do not require any other words after them, are called *intransitive verbs*. Intransitive verbs, however, can (optionally) have adverbials after them, e.g.
  1. I agree *completely. (how)*
  2. I slept *without any difficulty. (how)*
  3. The star exploded *a million years ago. (when)*
  4. Sara is sleeping *quietly in her bed, because she is tired. (how) (where) (why)*

# Transitive Verbs

- Verbs which have an **object** after them are called transitive verbs. An object is a noun phrase (**pronoun, noun or noun clause**) which follows a verb and which usually answers the question ‘what?’ or ‘whom?’ after the verb, e.g.
  1. I like **ice cream**. (I like what?)
  2. I asked **Sam**. (I asked who or whom?)
  3. I asked **a question**. (I asked what?)

# Element Realization Types

## The Subject:

1. ***Noun Phrase***, at its simplest a pronoun such as *she, he, they...etc* or a proper noun such as *Tom, Julia...etc*. But a noun phrase may be an indeterminately long and complex having a ***noun as a head, preceded by other words such as an article, an adjective, or another noun, and followed by a prepositional phrase or by a relative clause***.

EX. ***The new gas stove in the kitchen which I bought yesterday*** has a very efficient oven.



# Element Realization Types

## The Subject:

**2. Clause:** as in the following examples:

- *That the invading troops have been withdrawn* has been welcomed by the international community.
- *How the book will sell* depends on the reviewers.
- *To be neutral in his conflict* is out of question.
- *Watching television* keeps them out of mischief.
- *Turn off the tap* was all I did.

# Element Realization Types

**Subject complement, direct object, and object complement**

These elements may be realized by the **same range of structures as the subject**. **But subject and object complements have the additional possibility of being realized by adjectival phrases (having the adjective as the head word), as in:**

- She made him *happy*.
- She made him *very much happier*.

# Element Realization Types

## The Indirect Object

- The indirect objects have fewer possibilities than subjects and *their realizations are chiefly noun phrases*, as in:
- He had given *the girl* a book.

Unlike direct objects and subjects, they cannot be realized by *that- clauses*.

# Element Realization Types

## Adverbials:

Adverbials can be realized (a) by adverb phrases, having an adverb as a head; (b) by noun phrases; (c) by prepositional phrase -that is, structure consisting of a noun phrase dominated by a preposition as a head; and (d) by clauses, finite or non-finite:

- John *very carefully* searched the room.
- They make him the chairman *every year*.
- She studied *at a large university*.
- He grew happier, *when his friend arrived*.