

BASICS IN ENGLISH SENTENCE STRUCTURE

- ❖ **Sentence**:- A group of words put according to certain rule to give a complete thought.
- ❖ **Sentence structure according to form** may have a clause or the following phrases: NP, VP, AdjP, AdvP, and PreP.
- ❖ **Sentence structure according to function** may have the following elements: S, V, O, Adv, C

Ex. That student was so much helpful during the conference .

Form: NP + VP +adjP + PreP

Function: S + V + Cs + Adv

❖ Basic Sentence Structure:

1- Firstly:

S. + V(linking verb: be, get, feel,... as when describing things) + a clause or

C.(NP or adjP)

Adv.

They are great workers

She feel quite well.

2- Secondly:

S. + V (transitive: followed by an O)

- S+V+O: Ex. I play football.
- S+V+O₁+O₂:Ex. I play him football.
- S+V+O+ C_o **Ex:** He painted the house white, They made him a great player
- S+ V (Locative) + O + Adv (place) Ex: I have put the book on the shelf

3- Thirdly:

S. + V (intransitive: not followed by an O as in verbs of motion)

Ex: He plays well in the school

❖ Types of Sentences

A: According to their structure:

1. Simple sentences:

Ex. I saw the super visor and his student.

2. Compound sentences; (or, but, and,...)

Ex. I did not see the super visor **or** I met him.

3. Complex sentences;

Ex. I saw the man **whom** you dismissed yesterday.

4. Compound complex sentences; Ex. I saw the super visor **whom I told you about **and** you dismissed yesterday.**

B: According to their Function:

1. Statement sentence: (positive (affirmative), negative)

Ex. Negative: I **am not** here, I had **no** time, she could **hardly** help him.

Positive: I **am** here, I **had** time, she **could** help him.

2. Interrogative sentence;

- YES\NO Q. Ex. Could you understand me?

-Yes, I could understand you - No, I could not do so.

- Informative Q. Ex. What have you got from it?

3. Exclamative sentence: Oh!, How nice she is!, What a nice girl she is!, I was here!, What did I do!

4. Imperative sentence;

Ex. Close the door, please.

5. Echo sentence: - John did not like the film.

- John didn't what? (An echo one)

❖ Tenses

- **Present continuous**; it is used to express the idea that something is happening now at the moment of the speaking or temporary actions.

S. + VP (is, are, am + V.ing) +

Ex. They are studying now. Ex. We are talking at the moment.

- We can use the present continuous with adverbs such as (always, constantly, continually). **Ex. He is always offering to help me.**
- **Present simple**: We use the present simple to talk about something that is true at the present time and something that happens frequently as a permanent situation.

S. + V (bare V, V+S 3rd) +

Ex. I usually play tennis I such times. Ex. He lives in London.

Ex. They always play football every weekend.

- **Uses of present continuous and present simple** ;
 - In stories and jokes in informal spoken English.
 - In live commentaries (Sport events).
 - We can use the present simple in phrases such as (I says here, I here, I gather, I see, I understand and They say,..).
 - We can use the present simple to refer to a content of a book, film,..... .
 - We can use the present simple in news-paper head line to talk about events.
- **Past simple**: It refers to the past completed or repeated actions or events.
- **Adverbs used with the past simple verbs**: Last month, Yesterday, a month ago...etc.

Ex. I visited my friend yesterday. Ex. They arrived last month.

- **Past continuous**; Use the past continuous to indicate a temporary action or a repeated action (informally) in the past.

S. + VP (Was or Were + V. ing) +

Ex. The player fell down while he was running.

Ex. The mobile ring as I was studying.

Ex. They **were playing** when we went out.

- **Present perfect:**

S + VP (have or has + P. P) +.....

Ex. I **have just finished** my work.

- Adverbs such as (already, just, since, for, yet) can be used with such tense
- It refers to an action that has a starting point in the past time.

- **Past perfect:** It expresses the idea that something occurred before another action in the past.

Ex. Af **S. + VP (had + P. P.) +....** e switched off the light.

Ex. Before they went out, they **had written** the report.

- **Futurity:** It is used to talk about things or activities or actions that may or will occur in the future. The adverbials that are used to express it are like: tomorrow, next week, next year, soon,.....

- There are different forms of structure that can express futurity:

1. **S. + (is, am, are) + V+.....(any adv. refers to future time)**

Ex. The team **is leaving next week**

2. **S + (is, are, am) + going to + infinitive**

Ex. They **are going to get** married.

3. **S + V (modal aux. +V bare)...**

Ex. They **will leave soon.** **Ex:** She **can see** him **tomorrow**

4. **S + V (be)+ to+ Infinitive....**

Ex: I **am to explain** it

5. **S + V (be) + about + to + infinitive...**

Ex: The visitors **are about to leave**.

6. **S + V (simple present) + ... + (any adv. refers to future time)**

❖ Passive voice:

- the general basic rule of passive and active is:

○ **Active** **S. + Verb + Obi.**

○ **Passive** **Obj. + aux. (to be) + past participle**

Ex. They **studies** English. (simple present)

- English **is studied**.

Ex. Ali **can study** English. (simple present)

- English **can be studied**.

Ex. Ali **studied** English. (simple past)

- English **was studied**.

Ex. Ali **is studying** English. (continuous present)

- English **is being studied**.

Ex. Ali **was studying** English. (continuous past)

- English **was being studied**.

Ex. Ali **had studied** English. (perfect past)

- English **had been studied**.

Ex. Ali **has studied** English. (perfect present)

- English **has been studied**.

❖ **Some further notes:**

8- V+O+-ing:

They saw the monkey climbing→ the monkey was seen climbing

Other verbs that are followed by one object+ V-ing are: bring, catch, hear, find, keep, notice, observe, send, show.

9- Other some verbs do not allow the passive form like: contain, lack, befell, eludes, afford, have, cost, part.

10- Also, the structures:

S+V+C (or Adv), S+V+ reflexive pronoun (myself, herself..) cannot be changed into passive voice form.

He saw himself. (no passive),

I am a student (no passive),

I play well (no passive),

It costs three dinars (no passive)

○ **The passive voice is preferred when the agent;-**

1. Is not known.

Ex. My office was broken into when I was on holiday.

2. Is people in general.

Ex. An order form can be found on page 2.

3. Is unimportant.

Ex. He is thought to be somewhere in Russia.

4. Is obvious.

Ex. She is being treated in hospital (The agent is clearly medical staff).

5. Should not be mentioned in formal or academic writing

Ex: The liquid **was heated** to the degree of.....

ADVERBS AND ADVERBIALS

Comment and View point Adverbials (Ch.: 78):

There are some adverb phrases used to give:

- opinion or comment (as in: frankly, generally, sadly...etc.),
- how something is (as in: certainly, clearly, obviously, ...etc.), or
- show our judgment of actions (used after the subject, as in: bravely, kindly, rightly, ...etc.).

Whether used at the beginning or at the end, they are separated by a comma. Their positions restrict the scope they affect upon a sentence or some of its parts. For example (scope of the adv. P is in bold type):

- **Astonishingly, she did well in the exam.** (the whole sentence)
- She did **astonishingly well in the exam.**
- It was **obviously very painful.**

Other adverbials show from which side or viewpoint a person is speaking. They can be adverb phrases or preposition phrases in form, as in:

Financially = from a financial point of view

Physically = from a physical view

Politically = in terms of politics, from a political point of view, in political terms, as far as politics is concerned

Environmentally = as far as environment is concerned .

References

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