



Centre Universitaire Abdelhafid Boussouf Centre E-learning



English – Level1

Lesson 1 Sentence Structure

Staff pédagogique

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Etudiants Concernés Semestre 1

Institut	Département	Année	Spécialité
<i>Lettres et Langues</i>	<i>-Langues Etrangère</i>	<i>Licence 1</i>	<i>Français.</i>
<i>Sciences et Technologie</i>	<i>-Mathématique et informatique -Sciences Techniques.</i>	<i>Licence 1</i>	<i>-MI. -ST.</i>
<i>Sciences Economique</i>	<i>-Sciences Economique. -Sciences Commerciales. -Sciences de la Gestion.</i>	<i>Licence 1</i>	<i>Toutes les spécialités.</i>

Objectives of the Lesson:

1. To introduce you to the different sentence patterns.
2. To enable you to distinguish between the different sentence structures.

Components of English Sentence

**Independent clause, Dependent clause, Subject, Verb, Object and Prepositional phrase*

Key: **Yellow, bold** = subject; green underlined = verb, *blue, italicized* = object, **pink, regular font** = prepositional phrase

Independent clause: An independent clause (main clause) contains a subject and a verb and it expresses a complete idea. It can stand alone. In other words, independent clauses can be complete sentences.

- **I** like spaghetti.
- **He** reads many books.

Dependent clause: A dependent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb, but it does not express a complete thought. It must be attached to an independent clause to become complete. This is also known as a subordinate clause.

- **Although I like spaghetti,...**
- **Because he reads many books,...**

Subject: A person, animal, place, thing, or concept that does an action. Determine the subject in a sentence by asking the question “Who or what?”

- **I** like spaghetti.
- **He** reads many books.

Verb: Expresses what the person, animal, place, thing, or concept does. Determine the verb in a sentence by asking the question “What was the action or what happened?”

- I like spaghetti.
- He reads many books.
- The movie is good. (The *be* verb is also sometimes referred to as a copula or a linking verb. It links the subject, in this case *the movie*, to the complement or the predicate of the sentence, in this case, *good*.)

Object: A person, animal, place, thing, or concept that receives the action. To determine the object in a sentence we usually ask the question “The subject did what?” or “To whom?/For whom?”

- I like *spaghetti*.
- He reads *many books*.

Prepositional Phrase: A phrase that begins with a preposition (i.e., in, at, for, behind, until, after, of, during) and modifies a word in the sentence. A prepositional phrase answers one of many questions. Here are a few examples: “Where? When? In what way?”

- I like spaghetti **for dinner.**
- He reads many books **in the library.**

English Sentence Structure

The following statements are true about sentences in English:

- A new sentence begins with a capital letter.
 - **H**e obtained his degree.
- A sentence ends with one of the following punctuation marks.

A full stop (also called a period ‘.’): *He was waiting for election results.*

- **A question mark ‘?’**: *Are all the team members here?*
- **An exclamation mark ‘!’**: *The part went wonderfully well!*

- A sentence contains a subject that is only given once.
 - ~~Smith~~ he obtained his degree.
- A sentence contains a verb or a verb phrase.
 - He **obtained** his degree.
- A sentence follows Subject + Verb + Object word order.
 - **He** (subject) **obtained** (verb) **his degree** (object).
- A sentence must have a complete idea that stands alone. This is also called an independent clause.
 - **He obtained his degree.**

Sentence pattern

Sentence pattern is the way words in a sentence are ordered. There are five basic sentence structures in the English language:

1. Subject + verb (S + V)

Sara sits

S V

2. Subject + verb + direct object (S + V + D)

The girl pets the cat.

S V D

3. Subject + verb + indirect object + direct object (S + V + IO + DO)

My brother gave me a present

S V IDO DO

4. Subject + verb + subject complement (S + V + SC)

This boy is intelligent

S V SC

5. Subject + verb + direct object + object complement (S + V + DO+OC)

The teacher found the syllabus too long

S V DO OC

Time for Practice**Activity**

Divide each of the following sentences into its constituents, then determine the sentence pattern:

- 1) My father was a lawyer.
- 2) Ghosts and Angels exist.
- 3) Muslims consider the prophet Muhamed a teacher.
- 4) They finished their exams.
- 5) Our national football team won the match.
- 6) My husband bought me a new mobile.

References

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- 5) Chalker. S. (1992). A Student's English Grammar. Longman: England.