**Lesson Two: Sentence Structure**

The parts of a sentence are the subject, verb, object, complement and adverbial. A statement begins with the subject and the verb. There are five main structures which we can use to make a simple statement.

**1. SUBJECT + VERB**

- My arms are aching.

- Something happened.

**2 SUBJECT + VERB +OBJECT**

**-** I need a rest.

- Five people are moving the piano.

\* The subject and object can be a pronoun (e.g. I) or a noun phrase (e.g. the piano).

**3 SUBJECT + VERB + COMPLEMENT**

- This piano is heavy.

- It was a big problem.

\*The complement can be an adjective (e.g. heavy) or a noun phrase (e.g. a big problem).

The complement often comes after be. It can also come after appear, become, get, feel, look, seem, stay or sound.

**4 SUBJECT +VERB +ADVERBIAL**

- It is on my foot.

- Their house is nearby.

\*An adverbial can be a prepositional phrase (e.g. on my foot) or an adverb (e.g. nearby).

**5 SUBJECT +VERB + OBJECT + OBJECT**

- She gives me a gift .

- David bought Melanie a present.

\* We use two objects after verbs like give and send.

**Adverbials:** We can add adverbials to all the five main structures.

- My arms are aching **terribly**.

- I **really** need a rest.

**- Of course** this piano is heavy.

- **Fortunately,** their house is nearby.

**- To everyone's surprise**, David actually bought Melanie a present **yesterday.**

**Exercises (Sentence structure)**

**1 Parts of the sentence (A):** Mike and Harriet are on holiday. They have written a postcard to David and Melanie. Look at each underlined phrase and say what part of the sentence it is: subject, verb, object, complement or adverbial.

►We're having a great time. Object

1 The weather is marvelous. 4 We're on a farm.

2 We really enjoy camping. 5 We like this place.

3 It's great fun. 6 The scenery is beautiful.

**2 Sentence structure (A):** After moving the piano, the five friends had a rest and a cup of tea. Look at this part of their conversation and then write the letters a)- e) in the correct place.

a- David: That was a difficult job.

b- Tom: I agree.

c- Mike: I'm on my deathbed.

d- David: Someone should give us a medal.

e- Harriet: I've made some more tea.

► Subject + verb **b**

1 Subject + verb + object

2 Subject + verb + complement

3 Subject + verb + adverbial

4 Subject + verb + object + object ...........

**3 Word order (**A): Put the words in the correct order and write the statements.

► is / Melanie / very nice - Melanie is very nice.

1 football / likes / Tom ………………………………………………

2 an accident / David / had ………………………………………………

3 moved / the piano / we ………………………………………………..

4 a tall woman / Harriet / is ………………………………………………..

5 sat / on the floor / everyone ………………………………………………..

6 gave / some help / Mike's friends / him .............................................................................

**4 Adverbials (B):** These sentences are from a news report. Write down the two adverbials in each sentence. Each adverbial is a prepositional phrase or an adverb.

► Prince Charles opened a new sports centre in Stoke yesterday. In Stoke/ yesterday

1 He also spoke with several young people.

2 The sports centre was first planned in 1994.

3 Naturally, the local council could not finance the project without help.

4 Fortunately, they managed to obtain money from the National Lottery.

**3 Direct and Indirect Objects**

**Introduction**

**1- Henry gave Claire some flowers.** Here the verb give has **two objects**. Claire is the **indirect object**, the person receiving something. Some flowers is **the direct object**, the thing that someone gives**.**

**2- Henry gave some flowers to Claire.** Here give has a **direct object (some flowers)** and a phrase

with to**. To** comes before Claire, the person receiving something.

\*Here are some more examples of the two structures.

**INDIRECT OBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT**

1-Emma gave Rachel a CD.

2-I'll send my cousin a postcard.

3-We bought all the children an ice-cream.

**DIRECT OBJECT + PHRASE WITH TO/FOR**

1-Emma gave the CD to Rachel.

2- I'll send a postcard to my cousin.

3-We bought ice-creams for all the children.

**To or for?**

We give something to someone, and we buy something for someone.

* **We can use to** with these verbs: **bring, feed, give, hand, lend, offer, owe, pass, pay, post, promise, read, sell, send, show, take, teach, tell, throw, write.**

1-Vicky paid the money to the cashier, OR Vicky paid the cashier the money.

2- Let me read this news item to you. OR Let me read you this news item.

3- We showed the photos to David, OR We showed David the photos.

* **We can use for** with these verbs: **bring, build, buy, choose, cook, fetch, find, get, leave, make, order, pick, reserve, save**

1-They found a spare ticket for me. OR They found me a spare ticket.

2-I've saved a seat for you. OR I've saved you a seat.

3-Melanie is making a cake for David, OR Melanie is making David a cake.

**Give + pronoun**

Sometimes there is a pronoun and a noun after a verb such as give. The pronoun usually comes before the noun.

1- Henry is very fond of Claire. He gave her some flowers. We use **her** because Claire is mentioned earlier. Her comes before some flowers.

2. Henry bought some flowers. He gave them to Claire. We use **them** because the flowers are mentioned

earlier. Them comes before Claire.

**Exercises (Indirect / direct object)**

**Indirect object or to? (A)**

Write the information in one sentence. Put the underlined part at the end of the sentence. Sometimes you need **to**.

? Daniel lent something to Vicky. It was his calculator. —> Daniel lent Vicky his calculator.

? Mark sent a message. It was to his boss. —> Mark sent a message to his boss.

1 Emma sold her bike. Her sister bought it. —> Emma

2 Tom told the joke. He told all his friends. —> Tom...................

3 Melanie gave some help. She helped her neighbour. —► Melanie

4 Ilona wrote to her teacher. She wrote a letter. —> Ilona................................................

**To or for? (B)**

Mark's boss at Zedco is Mr Atkins. He is telling people to do things. Put in to or for.

* Give these papers to my secretary.
* Could you make some coffee for us?

1- Book a flight ………….. me, could you?

2 - Can you post this cheque … ……. ..the hotel?

3 Don't show these plans ……………….. anyone.

4 Leave a message ………………………… my secretary.

5 Fetch the file ………………………me, could you?

6 Write a memo ………………….all managers.

**Give + pronoun (C):** Complete each answer using the words in brackets. Sometimes you need to use to or for.

Matthew: Why is everyone laughing? (a funny story / us)

Vicky: Daniel told us a funny story.

Trevor: There's some fish left over, (it / the cat)

Laura: I'll feed it to the cat.

1 Mark: What are you doing with those bottles? (them / the bottle bank)

Sarah: I'm taking .......................................................................................................

2 Trevor: How are thingswith you, Daniel? (a job / me)

Daniel: Fine. Someone has offered .......................................................................................................

3 David: What about those papers you found? (them / the police)

Tom: Oh, I handed

4 Emma: It's pouring with rain, look, (my umbrella / you)

Rachel: It's OK. I'll lend ..........................................................................................................