
: STRUCTURE :

12.0 Objectives**12.1 Introduction****12.2 Sentence and Non-sentence****12.3 Sentence and Its Parts****12.3.1 Object****12.3.2 Subject Complement****12.3.3 Object Complement****12.3.4 Adverb Complement and Adjuncts****12.4 Subject and Verb Agreement****12.5 Word Order****12.6 Types of English Sentence****12.7 Let Us Sum Up****12.8 Key Words****12.9 Suggested Books****Answers**

12.0 OBJECTIVES

In this unit we shall have the following Objectives;

- what is a sentence and what is not a sentence,
- the constituents of the sentence – subject and predicate,
- formal and functional categories in the predicate phrase,
- subject and verb agreement,
- word order in the English sentences.

On completion of this unit, you should be able to;

- distinguish between sentences and non-sentences,
- learn a sentence and its parts,
- understand the basic elements in the predicate phrase,
- identify Formal and functional categories in the predicate phrase,
- make correct use of subject and verb agreement.

12.1 INTRODUCTION

A sentence is the largest grammatical unit of language. Therefore, we must differentiate a sentence from what is not a sentence. In this unit we are going to understand in detail the organization of a sentence from a formal as well as a functional point of view.

12.2 SENTENCES AND NON-SENTENCES

Read the following expressions.

Which of them are sentences and which are not ?

1. The blue pen
2. When he came college
3. Ravi reads a book.
4. At the bus stop
5. The principal meeting at 11 o'clock in the morning.
6. She going tomorrow
7. What a beautiful flower it is !
8. Will he come for the party ?
9. Mango eats Arnav.
10. Children was playing on the ground.

Let us now discuss why some of these are sentences but others are non-sentences.

When we read expression (1) we understand that 'the pen is blue', but we cannot say that 'the blue pen' is a sentence, because we know that a sentence requires a subject and predicate, 'the blue pen' can be a subject but there is no verb.

The expression (2) has a subject 'he' and it has also predicate 'came college.' But we do not call it a sentence because

(a) There is a comma after it, and

(b) It begins with 'when', which needs a main clause to complete its meaning

The expression at (3) is a sentence because it has a subject 'Ravi' and predicate 'reads a book' and the meaning here in this sentence is complete.

The expression at (4) 'at the bus stop' has neither subject nor predicate. It is therefore a non-sentence.

The expression at (5) tells us that there is meeting at 11 o'clock, but the expression 'is' without any verb which is the main part of predicate.

The expression (6) 'She going tomorrow' has a subject and a predicate, but the predicate 'going tomorrow' does not carry tense.

The expression (7) is a sentence it has a subject 'it' and also a predicate 'a beautiful flower' the verb 'is' indicates present tense and there is an exclamation mark (!) at the end of it.

Similarly, the expression (8) can be a sentence because it has a subject 'he', a predicate 'come for the party', and there is a question mark at the end of it.

The expression at (9) is not a sentence because the subject, verb and other words are not in proper order. It is therefore ungrammatical.

The expression at (10) has subject and predicate, and its verb ‘was’ indicates tense but its subject ‘children’ is plural and the verb ‘was’ is singular, so it is not a grammatical sentence.

What we understood from the above examples is as follows :

1. A sentence must have a subject and predicate.
2. It starts with a capital letter.
3. It must convey a complete thought.
4. It ends with a full stop (.), a question mark (?) or an exclamation mark (!).
5. If there are expressions like when, if, while, where etc., it needs a main clause to complete its meaning.
6. There should be a proper word order and subject – verb agreement, for the sentence to be grammatical.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS – 1

Which of the following are non-sentences and why ?

1. Because Merry pulled my hair.
2. It is raining outside.

12.3 SENTENCE AND ITS PARTS

A sentence is made up of two parts : subject and predicate. The subject of a sentence is the theme of the sentence and a predicate tells us new information about the subject.

Subject :

The subject refers to the part of the sentence that tells whom or what the sentence is addressing.

See for example :

Kiran is crying	Who is crying ?	Kiran
Neeta likes chocolate	What does Neeta like ?	Neeta
The parade was exciting	What was exciting ?	The parade

The subject is a noun, pronoun or a noun phrase.

1. John is a student. (noun as a subject)
2. The postman has posted a letter. (noun phrase as a subject)
3. What you say is untrue. (noun clause as a subject)

Predicate :

The predicate can be considered as one of the most important parts of a sentence. It is basically the part which says something about the subject and always contains a verb. A predicate can be one word or several words. In the predicate part there are other basic elements, which we are going to study now. Let us see what these basic elements are. Study the following sentence :

My father gave me a new bicycle yesterday.
S V Oi Od A

12.3.1 Object :

An object is a noun or pronoun that gives meaning to the subject and verb of a sentence. Some verbs are followed by a single object, while many verbs are followed by two objects— a direct object and an indirect object. Study the following sentences :

- Rohit** *wrote* a novel.
- She** *read* a book.
- Dhoni** *hits* a six.
- The dog** *chases* the cat.

In these sentences the verbs *wrote*, *read*, *hits*, *chases* indicate actions and the subjects **Rohit**, **She**, **Dhoni** etc. are the agents of action. These actions are performed on the Noun phrases a novel, a book, a six and the cat. In other words the Noun Phrases are affected by these actions. They are the Direct Objects of the verbs : write, read, hit and chase. All these verbs, which take objects, are called Transitive verbs. The verbs which do not take objects (verbs such as laugh, cry sleep, run etc.) are called Intransitive verbs.

The principal gave him a medal.
S V OI OD

In this sentence the action of giving is directly performed on ‘a medal’ so it is the Direct Object. But the other Noun Phrase/ pronoun ‘him’ has the role of a receiver – a recipient. It is the Indirect Object (IO) of the verb ‘give’. Other verbs which take two objects are : sell, show, send, offer, tell, find, leave, find, leave, bring etc.

However, we also put the indirect object after the direct object by using ‘to’ or ‘for’.

The doctor gave medicine **to** *her*.

Shyam bought a toy for **his** *son*.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS : 2

- Identify the Direct and Indirect Objects in the following sentences.
 - Teacher showed her the result.
 - Krishna sent him a gift.
 - We wish you Happy Birthday.
- Change the Indirect objects in the sentences below into the objects of preposition and rewrite the sentences.
 - Rashmi sold him a car.
 - Premal bought me a pen.

12.3.2 Subject Complement :

A word or word group that completes the meaning of a subject/an object.

Study the following sentences :

1. John is an engineer.
2. Snehal is a very beautiful.

In these sentences the verb 'is' is a form of the verb 'BE', and the verb in (1) there is a Noun Phrase 'an engineer' and in (2) an adjective phrase 'very beautiful'. If we simply say : 'John is' or 'Snehal is', these will be non-sentences because their meaning is not complete. The phrases 'an engineer' and 'very beautiful' complete their meaning. They are therefore called subject complement.

The verb is (Be form of the verb) is a linking verb. It is followed by a Noun Phrase or an Adjective Phrase, which functions as subject complement. There are other linking verbs like Be, Have, Do forms. These are become, feel, appear, remain, seem etc. which take Noun Phrases or Adjective Phrases as Subject Complement. **For example :**

- a. The boy appeared confident.

12.3.3 Object Complement :

Study the following sentences :

1. The committee appointed Patil President.

If you ask 'Who is the President' ?, the answer will be 'Patil'. It means that the Noun Phrase 'President' is related to the object 'Patil' and complements its meaning. Therefore, 'President' is object complement. The object complement is either a Noun Phrase or an Adjective Phrase. It gives more information about the object, and it occurs after the object. The verbs such as point, call, think, choose, drive, elect, and consider etc. give us sentences with object and object complement.

12.3.4 Adverbial Complement and Adjuncts :

An adverbial complement is an essential part of the sentence. It is a necessary element in the sentence structure. An adverb functions as a complement for a Verb Phrase. For example, study the following sentences :

1. She put the purse in the cupboard.

In this sentence, we omit the prepositional phrase 'in the cupboard' the sentence will be ungrammatical. You cannot say : She put the purse.

The phrase 'in the cupboard' is an adverb (of location). Look at the following example :

2. Mahatma Gandhi lived here.
3. All the students are in the seminar hall.

An adverbial complement can be a single adverb like here, there or a Prepositional Phrase as in the sentences no. 2 & 3. In all these sentences we cannot drop the underlined adverbial, because the remaining sentences will be ungrammatical.

Adjuncts provide information about time, place and manner of action of the verb. But they are not obligatory like Adverbial Complement. We can omit them and yet we can have an acceptable sentence. An adjunct can be a single word adverb, a prepositional phrase, a noun phrase or even a clause.

4. (Adverb)
Satish left the party quickly.
5. (Prep. Phrase)
Teachers went for swimming at the beach.
6. (A Noun Phrase)
Grandmother will give you your birthday present next month.
7. (Adverb Clause)
The swimmer seemed calm, even though the wave looked huge.

The adverbial complement occurs after the verb and the object, but the adjuncts can occur at the beginning of a sentence, in the middle or at the end. It is possible to have two or more adjuncts in a single sentence.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS : 3

Identify Adverbial Complement and Adjunct in the following sentences :

1. I put the book on the shelf.
2. She told me the story quickly.
3. These shirts come in three sizes.
4. I kept a copy of the letter in my desk.
5. The rain lasted all night.
6. She visited her family yesterday.

12.4 SUBJECT AND VERB AGREEMENT

In English, the agreement relation mainly holds between the subject and the verb.

1. A singular subject requires a singular verb. The rule is restricted to the Present Tense only. The singular verb takes the inflection – s or –es.

For example :

The cat *chases* the mouse.

The cats *chase* the mouse.

2. First person, second person and plural subjects do not change the form of the verb.

I go to school. (First Person Subject)

You look tired. (Second Person Subject)

Our friends gather together every Sunday. (Third Person Plural Subject)

3. There are forms of BE & HAVE according to number and person

BE			HAVE	
I am...	We are...	Present	I have...	We have...
I was...	We were...	Past	I had...	We had...
You are...	You are...	Present	You have...	You have...
You were...	You were...	Past	You had...	You had...
He/She/It is...	They are...	Present	He/She/It has...	They have...
He/She/It was...	They were...	Past	He/She/It had...	They had...

4. Some collective nouns such as group, jury, crowd, team, committee, cabinet, government, crowd, etc. may be singular or plural, depending on the meaning.

1. **The committee** was divided in their opinion.

In this sentence, 'the committee' is taken as single unit but their opinions as plural.

2. The team was formed after the meeting.

Here, 'the team' is taken as one body, so it is singular.

5. The names of some countries and the noun phrases indicating money have a plural form. But they represent one nation and one single amount. So they are singular subjects. See for example :

The United States of America has decided to attack on Iran.

6. The plural form of subjects such as politics, economics etc. appears to plural, but they are singular, subjects. See for example :

Politics is my favorite subject.

7. The subject noun connected with another one with the phrase 'as well as' is a singular subject. See for example :

Manisha as well as Sarita helps him

8. If the subjects are both singular and are connected by the words or, nor, neither/nor, either/or, and not only /but also, the verb is singular. If the subjects are both plural and are connected by the words or, nor, neither/nor, either/or, and not only /but also, the verb is plural. See for example :

Kiran or Sonali is to blame for the incident.

Lions and Elephants are both available at the circus.

12.5 WORD ORDER

Word order refers to the way words re- arranged in a sentence. In English sentences, word order is fixed. The standard word order in English is = Subject + Verb + Object

Raju is reading a novel.

S V O

If there is no Object, it is just.

They cried.
S V

Some verbs need an adverb to complete the meaning of the sentence.

Flowers are everywhere.
S V Adv.

Sarita sleeps soundly.
S V Adv.

Some verbs (linking verbs) behave like the verb to be. Instead of an object the verb is followed by something called a complement. The complement may be a noun or an adjective, so there are two types of S-V-C sentences : S-V-C(noun) and S-V-C(adj). In either case, the complement describes the subject.

My cousin Rudrali is a police officer.
S V C

Those girls look very happy.
S V C

Some verbs in English take two objects—direct object and indirect object. The indirect object occurs first and then the direct object.

Ramesh bought him a car.
S V OI OD

Sometimes an S + V + O + C sentence is imbedded in a longer, more complex sentence in such a way that its verb drops out and the subject becomes the object of the new, longer sentence.

Prof. Kamble found the book interesting.
S V O C

Sometimes an S + V + O + C + A sentence is imbedded in a longer

The company / appointed / him / clerk / last week.
S V O C A

She / made / his intentions / clear / now.
S V O C A

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS : 4

1. Paul / gave / his wife / a gift
2. They / elected / him / president
3. Lions exist.
4. The tea / is getting / cold
5. He / reads / slowly
6. Many students / witnessed / the play
7. The college/ appointed / him / Principal / last week.

12.6 TYPES OF ENGLISH SENTENCE

A sentence is a grammatical structure. There are five basic sentence types and they have different functions. These basic types are :

1. **Declarative Sentence** : A declarative sentence is a mere statement that relays information. It has a normal word order and it ends with a full stop. Such sentences are the most common type in the English language; it's easy to identify them as complete sentences.

For example : Santosh went for shopping.

2. **Interrogative Sentence** : Interrogative sentences come in the form of a question, which means it typically ends with a question mark. There is inversion of the auxiliary verb with the subject noun phrase.

For example :

1. Have you received your gift ?
2. Will you be leaving city tomorrow ?

Questions ask things like who, which, what, whose, where, when, why, how etc. Here are some examples :

1. Who are you ?
2. Which city is your favourite ?
3. What is your name ?
4. Whose dog is that ?
5. Where can I buy fresh popcorn
6. When will she come ?
7. Why do you come here ?
8. How are you ?

3. **Imperative Sentence** : An imperative sentence is a lot similar to a declarative sentence in form but is easily distinguished through the message being conveyed. It deletes the subject 'you', and the verb in the imperative sentence is in its basic form. It ends with a full stop or exclamation mark. It consists of requests and commands.

For example :

1. Open the window.
2. Get out!
3. Clean your room.

4. **Exclamatory Sentence** : An exclamatory sentence portrays a feeling of excitement or intensity that the speaker wishes to express. It ends with an examination mark (!) and it begins with 'what' and 'how'.

For example :

1. What a beautiful flower it is !
2. How exciting the story is !

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS : 5

True or False :

1. The purpose of a declarative sentence is to give demands.
2. An imperative sentence ends with a/an full stop or exclamation mark.
3. An interrogative sentence ends with a/an full stop.

Convert the following sentences :

1. New York is a very big city. [Convert into **Exclamatory Sentence**]
2. It was a great sight. [Convert into **Interrogative Sentence**]
3. Did she clean up your room ? [Convert into **Declarative Sentence**]

Name the following sentences :

1. Is basketball Mahesh's favorite sport ?
2. Close the door.
3. The popcorn was hot.
4. How is it ?
5. How nicely they are dancing!

Simple /Compound/ Complex/Compound–Complex Sentence

Different types of sentences are made up of different combinations of these two types of clauses.

Sentences are made up of clauses : groups of words that express a single idea. There are two types of clauses : independent clauses and dependent clauses. Independent clauses can stand alone as complete sentences. A dependent clause needs an independent clause to complete its meaning.

Simple sentences consist of just one independent clause; it requires only one punctuation mark at the end (a full stop, exclamation or question mark). It has a subject and only one verb.

e.g. Sony reads novel.

Compound sentences are made by joining simple sentences. It may also have one or more subordinate clauses. In a compound sentence the clauses are linked by coordinating conjunctions / connectives such as : and, but, so, yet.

1. Sony reads novel but Sanika reads comics.
2. I like bananas and I like grapes.
3. The essay was late, so he lost marks.
4. We can also join simple sentences with a semi–colon.
5. The essay was late; he lost marks.
6. Sony reads novel ; her friend reads comics.

Complex sentences are made when we combine one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses. The dependent clause in the following example is in italics.

1. *Because his essay was late*, he lost marks.
2. *Although Sony reads novel*, Sanika reads comics.

Compound–Complex Sentence has two independent clauses joined to one or more dependent clauses. In the example below, the central independent clause combines two sentence types. It serves as both the ending of the complex sentence and the beginning of the compound sentence.

1. While Sony reads novels, Jack reads comics, but Samir reads only newspaper.

When punctuating a compound–complex sentence, apply the rules for both compound and complex sentences. The example above begins with a dependent clause separated from the central clause by a comma, as in the rule for complex sentences. At the end of the sentence the independent clause is joined by a comma and the word ‘but’, as in the rule for the compound sentences.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS – 6

Name the following sentences :

1. It was raining cats and dogs so I closed the doors.
2. Swimming is my favorite exercise.
3. I feel sleepy whenever I read a book.
4. Chetan doesn't like cartoons because they are loud, so he doesn't watch them.

12.7 LET US SUM UP

In this unit you have learnt how a sentence is different from what is not a sentence. A simple sentence has parts like subject and predicate. The predicate phrase in a simple sentence is made up of a variety of functions such as direct and indirect object, complement and an adjunct. In this unit you have also learnt subject and verb agreement, the word order in English Sentence and types of sentences.

12.8 KEY WORDS

1. **Subject** : the part of the sentence that tells whom or what the sentence is addressing.
2. **Predicate** : the part which says something about the subject and always contains a verb.
3. **Verb** : to indicate the actions, processes, conditions, or states of beings of people or things.
4. **Object** : a noun or pronoun that gives meaning to the subject and verb of a sentence.
5. **Complement** : A word or word group that completes the meaning of a subject/an object.
6. **Adjuncts** : information about time, place and manner of action of the verb.
7. **Sentence** : the largest grammatical unit of language

12.9 SUGGESTED BOOKS

1. Geoffrey Leech, Margaret Deucharet.al. *English Grammar for Today : A New Introduction*. 2nd Edition. Basingstoke : Palgrave Macmillan. New York. 1982.
2. Quirk R. & Greenbaum S.A. *University Grammar of English*. Abridged Edition Longman, London. 1973.

ANSWERS

Check your progress – 1

Which of the following are non-sentences and why ?

1. **Because Merry pulled my hair.**
It is non-sentence as it begins with 'because' & it needs a main clause to complete its meaning
2. **It is raining outside.**
It is sentence because it has a subject '**It**' and predicate '**is raining outside**' and the meaning here in this sentence is complete.

Check your progress – 2

1. **Identify the Direct and Indirect Objects in the following sentences.**

1. Teacher showed her the result.

S + V + Oi + Od

2. Krishna sent him a gift.

S + V + Oi + Od

3. We wish you Happy Birthday.

S + V + Oi + Od

- C. **Change the Indirect objects in the sentences below into the objects of preposition and rewrite the sentences.**

1. Rashmi sold him a car.

Ans : Rashmi sold a car to him.

2. Premal bought me a pen.

Ans : Premal bought a pen for me.

Check your progress – 3

Identify Adverbial Complement and Adjunct in the following sentences :

1. I put the book on the shelf. **the adverbial is a complement**
2. She told me the story quickly– **The adverbial is an adjunct.**
3. These shirts come in three sizes.– **the adverbial is a complement**
4. I kept a copy of the letter in my desk. – **The adverbial is an adjunct**
5. The rain lasted all night.– **the adverbial is a complement**
6. She visited her family yesterday. **The adverbial is an adjunct**

Check your progress – 4

1. Paul / gave / his wife / a gift
S + V + Oi + Od
2. They / elected / him / president
S + V + O + C
3. Lions exist.
S + V
4. The tea / is getting / cold
S + V + C
5. He / reads / slowly
S + V + A
6. Many students / witnessed / the play
S + V + O
7. The college / appointed / him / Principal / last week.
S + V + O + C + A

Check your progress – 5

True or False :

1. **False :** The purpose of a declarative sentence is to give demands.
2. **True :** An imperative sentence ends with a/an full stop or exclamation mark.
3. **False :** An interrogative sentence ends with a/an full stop.

Convert the following sentences :

1. New York is a very big city. [Convert into **Exclamatory Sentence**]
What a big city New York is !
2. It was a great sight. [Convert into **Interrogative Sentence**]
Was it a great sight ?
3. Did she clean up your room ? [Convert into **Declarative Sentence**]
She cleaned up your room.

Name the following sentences :

1. Is basketball Mahesh's favorite sport ? – **Interrogative Sentence**
2. Close the door. – **Imperative Sentence**
3. The popcorn was hot. – **Declarative Sentence**
4. How is it ? – **Interrogative Sentence**
5. How nicely they are dancing ! – **Exclamatory Sentence**

Check your progress – 6

Name the following sentences :

1. It was raining cats and dogs so I closed the doors.– **Compound Sentence**
2. Swimming is my favorite exercise.– **Simple Sentence**
3. I feel sleepy whenever I read a book.– **Complex Sentence**
4. Chetan doesn't like cartoons because they are loud, so he doesn't watch them.– **Compound–Complex Sentence**

♦♦♦♦♦♦