UNIVERSIDAD CRISTIANA DE LAS ASAMBLES DE DIOS

SCIENCES AND ARTS FACULTY

ENGLISH MAJOR BASED ON EDUCATION

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| Grammar 1 | | | | | |
| Professor | B.A. Misael M. Sigüenza C. | Schedule | 6:30am-9:50am | Date | 01/31st,2014 |
| Student |  | | | | |

GRAMMAR

According to the *Cambridge dictionary for advance learners*, **grammar** is the study or use of the rules about how words change their form and combine with other words to make sentences[[1]](#footnote-1)

Other valid concepts are:

1. The systematic study and description of a language
2. A set of rules and examples dealing with the syntax and word structures of a language.

**THE VERB**

A verb, is a word that in syntax conveys an action (bring, read, walk, run, learn), an occurrence (happen, become), or a state of being (be, exist, stand) of the subject

Verbs vary by type, and each type is determined by the kinds of words that follow it and the relationship those words have with the verb itself. There are six types: intransitive, transitive, infinitives, to-be verbs, and two-place transitive (Vg- verb give), and two-place transitive (Vc- verb consider).

Intransitive verbs

An intransitive verb is one that does not have a direct object. The action ends or is modified by an adverb or adverb phrase rather than being transferred to some person or object

Intransitive verbs may be followed by an adverb (a word that addresses how, where, when, and how often) or end a sentence. For example: "The woman spoke softly." "The athlete ran faster than the official”. “Peter’s situation improved”

An intransitive verb has two characteristics. First, it is an action verb, expressing a doable activity, in other words, an activity that you can do such as: arrive, go, lie, sneeze, sit, die, etc. Second, unlike a transitive verb, it will not have a direct object receiving the action.

You can recognize that a verb is intransitive because it does not have a passive form. For example: “Peter arrived early. NOT Early was arrived Peter”

***Examples of intransitive verbs.***

In the following examples, the intransitive verb is bold and the modifier is underlined.

* *The man* ***decided*** *against a plea bargain*.

The subject (the man) did something (decided) a particular way (against).

* *He* ***refused*** *because of his immaturity, not his lack of contrition.*

The subject (He) did something (refused) for a particular reason (because of his immaturity).

* *Alice* ***complained*** *bitterly*.

The subject (Alice) did something (complained) to a particular degree (bitterly).

* *At the end of the Roaring '20s, the incarceration index* ***rose*** *slightly*.

The subject (the index) did something (rose) in a particular direction (slightly).

* *When faced with the problem, the scholar* ***paused****.*

The subject (scholar) did something (paused) at a particular time (when faced with the problem).

* *Earl* ***fell****.*

The subject (Earl) did something (fell)

Transitive verbs

A transitive verb is followed by a noun or noun phrase. These noun phrases are not called predicate nouns but are instead called direct objects because they refer to the object that is being acted upon. For example: "My friend read the newspaper." "The teenager earned a speeding ticket."

The difference between transitive and intransitive verbs is that even though both are action verbs, expressing a doable activity like kick, want, paint, write, eat, clean, etc. intransitive verbs must have a direct object, something or someone who receives the action of the verb.

A way to identify a transitive verb is to invert the sentence, making it passive. For example: "The newspaper was read by my friend." "A speeding ticket was earned by the teenager." Notice that transitive verbs always take objects. You will always be able to ask a question beginning with 'What' or ‘Whom’ Examples: I paid the bill last week. - What did you pay? She studies Russian. - What does she study?

***Here are some examples of transitive verbs:***

* ***Sylvia kicked Juan under the table***.

Kicked = transitive verb; Juan = direct object.

* ***Joshua wants a smile from Leodine, his beautiful but serious lab partner.***

Wants = transitive verb; smile = direct object.

* ***Cornelius painted the canvas in Jackson Pollock fashion, dribbling bright colors from a heavily soaked brush.***

Painted = transitive verb; canvas = direct object.

* ***Alicia wrote a love poem on a restaurant napkin.***

Wrote = transitive verb; poem = direct object.

* ***Antonio eats lima beans drenched in brown gravy.***

Eats = transitive verb; lima beans = direct object

Important note: When no direct object follows an action verb, the verb is intransitive.

Infinitives

*To sneeze*, *to smash*, *to cry*, *to shriek*, *to jump*, *to dunk*, *to read*, *to eat*, *to slurp*—all of these are infinitives. An infinitive will almost always begin with *to* followed by the simple form of the [verb](http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/verb.htm), like this:

to + verb = infinitive

**Important Note:** An infinitive cannot add *s*, *es*, *ed*, or *ing* to the end. Ever!

Infinitives can be used as [nouns](http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/noun.htm), [adjectives](http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/adjective.htm), or [adverbs](http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/adverb.htm) Look at these examples:

* ***To sleep****is the only thing Eli wants after his double shift*

*To sleep* functions as a noun because it is the subject of the sentence.

* *No matter how fascinating the biology dissection is, Emanuel turns his head and refuses****to look****.*

*To look* functions as a noun because it is the direct object for the verb *refuses*.

* *Wherever Melissa goes, she always brings a book****to read****in case conversation lags or she has a long wait.*

*To read* functions as an adjective because it modifies *book*.

* *Richard braved the icy rain****to throw****the smelly squid eyeball stew into the apartment dumpster.*

*To throw* functions as an adverb because it explains why Richard braved the inclement weather.

Linking verbs

A linking verb cannot be followed by an adverb or end a sentence but instead must be followed by a noun or adjective, whether in a single word or phrase. Common linking verbs include seem, become, appear, look, and remain. For example: "His mother looked worried." "Josh remained a reliable friend." Therefore, linking verbs 'link' the adjective or noun to the subject.

Again, linking verbs do not express action. Instead, they connect the subject of the verb to additional information about the subject. Look at the examples below:

* *Keila* ***is*** *a shopaholic.*

Ising isn't something that Keila can do. “Is” connects the subject, Keila, to additional information about her, that she will soon have a huge credit card bill to pay.

* *During the afternoon, my cats* ***are*** *content to nap on the couch.*

Areing isn't something that cats can do. Are is connecting the subject, cats, to something said about them, that they enjoy sleeping on the furniture.

* *After drinking the old milk, Vladimir* ***turned*** *green.*

Turned connects the subject, Vladimir, to something said about him, that he needed an antacid.

* *A ten-item quiz* ***seems*** *impossibly long after a night of no studying.*

Seems connects the subject, a ten-item quiz, with something said about it, that its difficulty depends on preparation, not length.

* *Irene always* ***feels*** *sleepy after pigging out on pizza from Antonio's.*

Feels connects the subject, Irene, to her state of being, sleepiness

To be verbs

The verb be is manifested in eight forms: be, is, am, are, was, were, been, and being. These verbs precede nouns or adjectives in a sentence. They can also be followed by an adverb of place. For example: "Her daughter was a writing tutor." "The singers were very nervous." "My house is down the street."

We must choose carefully among these various forms when selecting the proper verb to go with our subject. Singular subjects require singular verbs; plural subjects require plural verbs. That's usually an easy matter. We wouldn't write “The troops was moving to the border.” But some sentences require closer attention. Do we write “The majority of students is (or are) voting against the referendum"? Review carefully the material in our section on Subject-Verb Agreement, and notice how often the choices we make require a familiarity with these forms of the “To be” verb.

The forms of the verb "to be"

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **When?** | **Who?** | **Form** | **Example** |
| Base form |  | be | It can be simple. |
| Simple Present | I | am | I am here. |
| You | are | You are here. |
| He/She/It | is | She is here. |
| We | are | We are here. |
| They | are | They are here. |
| Simple Past | I | was | I was here. |
| You | were | You were here. |
| He/She/It | was | She was here. |
| We | were | We were here. |
| They | were | They were here. |
| Simple Future | I | will be | I will be here. |
| You | will be | You will be here. |
| He/She/It | will be | She will be here. |
| We | will be | We will be here. |
| They | will be | They will be here. |
| Progressive form |  | being | He is being unusual. |
| Perfect from |  | been | It has been fun. |

**THE SUBJECT**

**Recognize a subject of a sentence when you see one.**

In a sentence, every verb must have a subject. If the verb expresses action—*like sneeze, jump, bark, or study*—the subject is *who* or *what* *does the verb* (or the action). Take a look at this example:

* ***During his biology lab, Tommy danced on the table.***

*Danced* is an action verb. *Tommy* is who did the dancing. Look at the next example:

* ***The speeding hotrod crashed into a telephone pole.***

*Crashed* is the action verb. *The hotrod* is what did the crashing.

Not all verbs are action verbs. Some verbs are linking: *am, is, are, was, were, seem, and become, among others*. Linking verbs connect the subject to something that is said about the subject. Take a look at this example:

* ***Ron's bathroom is a disaster.***

*Bathroom* is the subject. *Is* connects the subject to something that is ***said*** about it,

* ***The bathroom tiles are fuzzy with mold***.

The word tiles is the subject. Are connects tiles to something said about them, that they are fuzzy with mold.

**Note: Generally, but not always, the subject of a linking verb will come before the linking verb.**

Know the difference between a **complete subject** and a **simple subject**.

* **The complete subject** is who or what is doing the verb plus all of the modifiers [descriptive words] that go with it. Read the sentence below:
* ***The big, hungry, green Martian grabbed a student from the back row***.

Who did the grabbing? The Martian, of course. But this Martian wasn't petite, satisfied, and blue. No, this one *was big, hungry, and green*. The complete subject, then, is the *huge, hairy, hungry, green Martian*.

* **The simple subject**, on the other hand, is the “who” or “what” that is doing the verb without any description. Take a look at this example:
* ***The bright copper coin sparkled on the sidewalk***.

What did the sparkling? Obviously, the bright copper coin. The, bright and copper, however, are just description that distinguishes this coin from one that is, let's say, tarnished and silver. The simple subject is only the word coin, so the sentence is only *the coin sparkled on the sidewalk*

**Remember that the subject is never part of a prepositional phrase**.

The subject of a verb will never be part of a prepositional phrase. A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition [*in, on, at, between, among, etc*.] and ends with a *noun, pronoun, or gerund*. Look at these examples of prepositional phrases:

***in*** *the dirty bathtub,* ***on*** *the bumpy road,* ***at*** *home ,* ***between*** *us,* ***among*** *the empty pizza boxes,* ***without*** *crying*

more examples of prepositional phrases can be found here <http://www.advanced-english-grammar.com/list-of-prepositional-phrases.html>

Sometimes a prepositional phrase appears to be either the subject itself or part of the subject. Read the example that follows:

* ***Neither of these boys wants to try a piece of pineapple pizza.***

In this sentence, the boys seem to be the ones who do not want the pizza, but because they are part of a prepositional phrase, *of these boys*, they are not the subject. ***Neither*** is the actual subject. Take a look at another example:

* ***My dog, along with her seven puppies, has chewed all of the stuffing out of the sofa cushions.***

Here, both my dog and her seven puppies are chewing on the sofa, but because the puppies are part of the prepositional phrase *along with her seven puppies*, the only word that counts as the subject is *dog*.

**Remember this additional point:**

Generally, but not always, the subject comes before the verb, as in all of the examples above. There are, however, exceptions, like this one:

* ***In a small house adjacent to our backyard lives a family with ten noisy children.***

*Lives* is the action verb in this sentence, but it is not the house or the backyard that is doing the living. Instead, it is the family with ten noisy children. *Family*, then, is the subject of this sentence, even though it comes after the verb. Take a look at another example:

* ***Around the peach trees are several buzzing bumblebees.***

Are is the linking verb in this sentence. The word trees, however, is not the subject because trees is within the prepositional phrase around the peach trees. The subject in this sentence, bumblebees, follows the verb rather than coming before it.

**DIRECT & INDIRECT OBJECT**

### What is an object?

An **object** in grammar is a part of a sentence, and it refers to someone or something involved in the [subject](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-lesson-subject.php)'s "performance" of the verb. It is what the verb is being done to. As an example, the following sentence is given:

* Leila wrote **the poem**- the "poem" is the object.

"Leila" is the [subject](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-lesson-subject.php), the doer or performer, while "wrote" is the action, and "poem" is the object involved in the action.

### Types of object

#### Direct object

A direct object answers the question "What?"

Examples:

* David repaired his car- his caris the **direct object** of the verb repaired (What did David repair?)
* The man visited the museum- the museumis the **direct object of the verb** visited (what did the man visit?)

#### Indirect Object

An indirect object answers the question "To whom?" or "For whom?". An indirect object is the recipient of the direct object, or an otherwise affected participant in the event. There must be a direct object for an indirect object to be placed in a sentence. In other words an indirect object cannot exist without a direct object.

Examples:

* *They sent him a postcard -*him*is the****indirect object****of the verb*sent. (To whom*did they send a postcard?)*
* *He bought his son a bike -*his son*is the****indirect object****of the verb*bought*. (*For whom*he bought a bike?)*

1. CAMBRIDGE University press, *“Cambridge advance learner’s dictionary”*, third edition,UK,2008 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)