

Sentence Pattern Definition

There are five important components in a sentence

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------|
| Subject | Verb | Object |
| Complement (C) | Adverbial (A) | |

1. SUBJECT (S)

Definition :

To get 'S' ask the question 'Who?' before the verb.

e.g.

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nancy danced well | (Here "Nancy" - Subject) |
| The child broke the glass | (Here "The child" - Subject) |
| | consists of nouns or pronouns |
| Subject (S) | occurs before a verb |

2. VERB (V)

Definition:

In every sentence the most important word is the verb. A verb shows action or activity or work done.

e.g.

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| He is a doctor | ("Be" form verb) |
| Jems wrote a letter | (Main verb) |
| The baby is crying | (auxiliary verb + Main verb) |
| | consists of (a) auxiliaries |
| Verb (V) | (b) finite verbs |

(a) Auxiliaries

e.g.

| |
|------------------------|
| am, is, are ,was, were |
|------------------------|

| |
|----------------|
| has, have, had |
|----------------|

| |
|---------------|
| does, do, did |
|---------------|

| |
|--|
| Modals : can, could; will, would; shall, should; may, might; must |
|--|

| |
|---|
| Semi-modals / Quasi Modals : dare to; need to; used to; ought to |
|---|

(b) Finite verbs - denote action

e.g.

| |
|---|
| talk, sing, write, make, dance, play, cook, leave, teach, sleep |
|---|

| |
|---------------------------------|
| - verbs occur after the subject |
|---------------------------------|

| |
|---------------------------------|
| - verbs occur before the object |
|---------------------------------|

3. OBJECT (O)

Definition :

To get the object 'O' ask the question 'What' or 'Whom'. 'What' is for things and 'Who' is for persons. Persons may be nouns or pronouns.

e.g.

| |
|------------------------|
| He bought a pen |
|------------------------|

| |
|------------------|
| (a pen = Object) |
|------------------|

| |
|--------------------------------|
| He handles the computer |
|--------------------------------|

| |
|---------------------|
| (computer = Object) |
|---------------------|

| |
|------------------|
| I saw him |
|------------------|

| |
|----------------|
| (him = Object) |
|----------------|

Object (O) - consists of nouns or noun phrases or noun clauses

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| | - direct object |
|--|-----------------|

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| (a) Do | - answers the question 'what' |
|--------|-------------------------------|

e.g.

| S | V | O (what) |
|---|---|----------|
|---|---|----------|

| | | |
|---|-------|---------|
| I | likes | animals |
|---|-------|---------|

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| | - indirect object |
|--|-------------------|

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| (b) IO | - answers the question 'whom' |
|--------|-------------------------------|

e.g.

| S | V | IO (whom) | DO |
|---|------|-----------|-------|
| I | gave | Rosy | a pen |

4. COMPLEMENT (C)

Definition :

The words required to complete the meaning of a sentence are called **Complement of the sentence**.

e.g.

| S | V | C |
|-----|--------|--------------|
| He | is | a dentist |
| She | became | a journalist |
| It | grew | dark |

Complement (C) - from the word 'complete'

- completes the meaning in the sentence

- without it the, meaning is incomplete

- without it the, meaning changes

occurs in two pattern. (i) S V C pattern. (ii) S V O C pattern

(i) In S V C pattern, the complement C

- complements the subjects

- tells about the subject

- without it the, meaning changes

- without C, the sentence is incomplete or the sentence changes its meaning

- use to be forms, grew, became, seems for verb

e.g.

| S | V | C |
|------|-----|---------|
| They | are | players |

| | | |
|-----|-------|--------|
| She | was | angry |
| It | seems | absurd |

(ii) In S V O C pattern

- the complement tells about the object

- the complement and object are of the same person or thing

e.g.

| S | V | O | C |
|------|---------|--------|----------|
| They | called | David | a genius |
| I | found | her | crying |
| They | elected | Michle | leader |

Types of Complement

1. Subject Complement

Definition :

The complement which expresses the **quality or identity or condition** of the subject is called **Subject Complement**.

e.g.

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| She is a doctor | She looks sad |
|-----------------|---------------|

2. Object Complement

Definition :

The complement which expresses the **quality or identity or condition** of an object is called **Object Complement**.

e.g.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| They made her angry | She called him a liar |
|---------------------|-----------------------|

Adjunct or Adverbial

Definition :

To get 'A' ask the question **why, when, where or how**.

The use of adverbial is optional whereas complement is essential. It has adverb phrase, adverbial clause, noun-phrase and prepositional phrase.

e.g.

| Why? (reason) | When? (Time) | Where? (Place) | How? (Manner) |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| due to cold | now, later | here, there | by bus / cycle |
| through floods | after 2 years | every where | through efforts |
| under compulsion | when young | in the sky | by mixing |
| carefully | in the morning | at home | by hard work |

Adjunct - A - answers the questions where? when? how? why?

- without A, any change in the meaning of the sentence

Examples of Adjuncts in sentences

e.g.

| S | V | A |
|-----|-------|-----------|
| She | Comes | every day |
| - | Sit | here |