

## Topic: Complementation of verbs and adjectives

- grammatical patterns that follow a verb or adjective and complete the specification of a meaning relationship which that word implies

**multi-word verbs:**

1. **phrasal verbs** (e.g. *to find out, put off, break down*)
2. **prepositional verbs** (e.g. *to look at, care for, cope with*)
3. **phrasal-prepositional verbs** (e.g. *to put up with, look forward to, do away with*)

1. **phrasal verbs:** a/ **intransitive phrasal verbs** (a verb + an adverb particle)  
*When will they give in?* - the meaning of **idiomatic**

**combinations** cannot be predicted from the meaning of the individual parts

*The sun came out.* - with **free combinations**, where the adverb has an intensifying (e.g. *to chatter away*) or aspectual force (e.g. *to drink up*), the meaning can be predicted, moreover, **substitution** (*walk past x walk by, in, through, over*), **fronting** of the adverb (*Out came the sun.*) and **separation** (*Go straight on.*) are possible.

b/ **transitive phrasal verbs** (a verb + an adverb particle + an object)  
*They turned on the light.* or *They turned the light on.*  
but with pronouns only: *They turned it on.*

2. **prepositional verbs:** a/ **type I prepositional verbs**  
*Can you cope with the work?* - prepositional object

**the distinction between prepositional verbs and free combinations:**

<i>We called on the dean.</i>	<i>We called after lunch.</i>
<i>The dean was called on.</i>	O (no passive)
<i>John called on her.</i>	<i>John called from the office.</i>
- <i><u>Who(m)</u> did John call on?</i>	- <i><u>Where</u> did John call from?</i>

**the distinction between prepositional verbs and phrasal verbs:**

<i>She called on her friends.</i>	<i>She called up her friends./She called her friends up.</i>
<i>She called on them.</i>	<i>She called them up.</i>
<i>She called <u>angrily</u> on her friends.</i>	O
<i>the friends on whom she called</i>	O
<i>Which friends did she CALL on?</i>	<i>Which friends did she call UP?</i>

b/ **type II prepositional verbs**

*May I remind you of our agreement?* - ditransitive verbs, followed by two NPs, normally separated by the preposition (prepositional object)  
Note:

**There are two minor groups** in which the **direct object is part of the idiomatic combination**: (1) *make a mess of, make allowance for, take care of, pay attention to, take advantage of*: (e.g. two passive structures possible: *A terrible mess has been made of the house.* or *The house has been made a terrible mess of.*)

(2) *catch sight of, keep pace with, give way to, lose touch with, cross swords with, keep tabs on, give rise to* (e.g. only the prepositional object can become the subject of the passive structure: *The lifeboat was suddenly caught sight of.*)

3. **phrasal-prepositional verbs:** a/ **type I** verbs have only a prepositional object  
*He thinks he can get away with everything.*

b/ **type II** verbs are ditransitive, i.e. require two objects:

*We put our success down to hard work.*

**There are other multi-word verb combinations:**

a/ verb-adjective combinations: e.g. *to cut short, rub dry*,

b/ verb-verb combinations: e.g. *to make do with, get rid of, have done with, get going*,

c/ verbs with two prepositions: e.g. *to develop from N into N, to talk to N about N*.



### 1. direct object and *to*-infinitive clause

e.g. *The police reported the traffic to be heavy.*

some verbs: *to believe, consider, expect, feel, find, know, suppose;*

### 2. direct object and bare infinitive clause

e.g. *I saw Mary open the window.*

The passive normally requires a *to*-infinitive, e.g. *Mary was seen to open the window.*

### 3. direct object and *-ing* participle clause

e.g. *I saw him lying on the beach.* The passive: *He was seen lying on the beach.*

### 4. direct object and *-ed* clause

e.g. *She had the car cleaned.* Three groups of verbs: a/ perceptual verbs (*to see, hear, feel, watch*); b/ volitional verbs (*to like, need, want*); c/ causative verbs (*to get, have*)

#### Notes on ditransitive verbs:

They require in their basic form two objects: an indirect, usually animate, object and a direct, usually inanimate, object (e.g. *He gave the girl a doll.*)

Most ditransitive verbs can be also monotransitive, with a few verbs (*to teach, show, ask, pay, tell,*) either object can be omitted. (e.g. *She taught us.* x *She taught physics.*)

#### Some other examples of ditransitive complementation:

##### 1. object and prepositional object (e.g. *She reminded him of the agreement.*)

only the first passive is possible: *He was reminded of the agreement.*

some verbs: *to accuse of, advise about, congratulate on, inform of, interest in, introduce to, prevent from, protect from, punish for, sentence to, thank for, treat to;*

##### 2. indirect object and *that*-clause object (*She convinced him (that) she was well.*)

only the first passive is possible: *He was convinced (by her) that she was well.*

some verbs: *to advise, bet, convince, inform, persuade, promise, remind, show, teach, tell, warn, write, ask, beg, command, instruct, order;*

##### 3. prepositional object and *that*-clause object (e.g. *Peter recommended (to me) that I buy some malt whisky.*) both passives are possible: *I was recommended ..... as well as That I buy some malt whisky was recommended (to me) by Peter.,* more acceptably with **extraposition**: *It was recommended (by Peter) that I buy some malt whisky.*

some verbs: *to admit, announce, complain, confess, explain, mention, point out, prove, remark, report, say, write, ask, propose, recommend, suggest;*

##### 4. indirect object and *wh*-clause object (e.g. *Mary asked me when I would return.*)

##### 5. indirect object and *to*-infinitive clause object (e.g. *I persuaded him to leave.*)

Some verbs: *to advice, ask, beg, command, forbid, instruct, invite, order, persuade;*

#### Adjective complementation

adjectives often form a lexical unit with a following preposition, for some adjectives the complementation being obligatory: e.g. *averse to, bent on, conscious of, fond of.*

#### adjective complementation by a finite clause

*that*-clause following an adjective may have an indicative verb, a subjunctive verb, or putative *should*, e.g. *We were certain that Peter was still alive.*

*I am anxious that Peter be/should be permitted to leave.*

#### adjective complementation by a *to*-infinitive clause

a/ the subject of the main clause is also the subject of the infinitive clause:

e.g. *Jane is slow to react. Jane is sorry to hear it.*

b/ the subject of the infinitive clause is unspecified, although the context often makes clear which subject is intended:

e.g. *Jane is hard to convince. The food is ready to eat.*

#### adjective complementation by an *-ing* participle clause

e.g. *We are used to having a car. I am hopeless at washing up.*