

## SEMINAR 1 – SENTENCE AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE

**sentence (subject and predicate) - sentence elements (S, V, O, A, C) - types of verbs (transitive, intransitive, copular) - 7 basic sentence patterns) - phrases - clause**

### Sentence

*Consider the following stretches of language. Are they sentences?*

e.g.            are playing football in the garden  
                  the boys

*What's missing in each one?*

→ to make a sentence, we need two constituents: **the subject + the predicate** (= what is said about the subject, i.e. all the words in a sentence except the subject).

### Sentence elements

[ S ] the **subject** is easily identifiable – by asking *who?* – he, children, my mother, someone

- the predicate has a few constituents:

[ V ] - **verb** - are playing

[ O ] - **object** - football

[ A ] - **adverbial** - in the garden (=time, place, manner)

[ C ] - **complement** – is used after a copular verb e.g. He is *clever*.

### Verbs

We distinguish 3 basic types of verbs:

- a) **intransitive** – do not require an object, can be followed by an adverbial  
e.g. My head aches. The bus left (early). They didn't arrive.
- b) **transitive** – require an object, cannot stand on their own  
e.g. I need money. He enjoys swimming. I met him yesterday.
- c) **copular** – are followed by a complement (compl. tells us st about the subject)  
e.g. John is clever. Mike is an architect

most common: be, seem, appear, sound, feel, taste, smell

verbs indicating a change: become, go, grow, get, prove, turn

!Some verbs can be used both transitively and intransitively:

compare: *open* The door opened. v. Someone opened the door.

*answer*

*close*

### Sentence patterns

- out of the sentence elements we can make 7 basic sentence patterns (types)

1. SV - My head aches. They laughed.
2. SVC - My brother has become an architect.
3. My sister enjoyed her holiday.
4. The firm gave Sam a watch.
5. They made Sam chairman.
6. The bank opens at 9.
7. You can put the dish on the table.

*Try to add the other types.*

IN THE STUDY OF GRAMMAR THERE ARE TWO MAIN ISSUES: FUNCTION AND FORM.

So far we have analyzed parts of sentences in terms of their **function** (=sent. elements)  
Speaking about **form**, we will identify various **phrases** in a sentence:

**Phrase** – a word or more words built around the head word

- a) noun phrase – My watch has disappeared.
- b) verb phrase - My watch has disappeared.
- c) adjective phrase – She sounded a bit doubtful.
- d) adverb phrase – She answered quite rapidly.
- e) prepositional phrase – The keys were on the desk.

### Sentence v. clause

- *I was late today.* = a sentence
- *I was late today because I missed the bus.* = a sentence which comprises **2 units**  
– **clauses.**

A sentence can comprise only one clause, as in *I was late for school.*