

## SEMINAR 1 - SENTENCE AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE

### QUESTIONS *(to answer after you have studied the seminar handout carefully)*

1. Which two main constituents are needed to make a sentence?
2. Are the terms '*the verb*' and '*the predicate*' identical?
3. How many basic *sentence elements* do we distinguish in English and which ones?
4. How do we identify *the subject* of the clause / sentence? Consider the following sentence:  
  
e.g. *The grey-haired woman in the black dress is my grandma.*
5. What three main kinds of adverbials do we distinguish? Give examples of your own.
6. Using the following examples explain the difference between the verbs (i.e. what kind of verbs are they?)
  - a) The keys disappeared.
  - b) I saw your sister at the cinema yesterday.
  - c) The test didn't seem difficult at all.
7. Give examples of a *ditransitive* and *monotransitive* verb in sentences illustrating the difference between them.
8. Some verbs can be used both transitively and intransitively. Compare the following sentences - what kind of verb is 'leave' in each one?
  - a) The bus left early.
  - b) John left his office and went home.

9. Supply the sentence patterns:

- a) John bought his girlfriend some flowers.
- b) I find your suggestion interesting.
- c) My elder brother is studying English in London.
- d) Your argument appears sensible.
- e) Peter arrived at 7 o'clock.
- f) It didn't rain.
- g) The young woman was waiting for her husband.

Judging from the above sentences, which elements are obligatory?

10. Give a definition of '*a phrase*'. What basic phrases do we distinguish? Identify the phrases in the following sentence:

*e. g. Carol's eldest brother has been studying English in London for three months.*

11. Identify the following phrases in the given sentence:

- a) a noun phrase - He told the whole story again.
- b) a verb phrase - My sister is going to study history at university.
- c) an adjective phrase - The watch was much more expensive than I expected.
- d) an adverb phrase - She said it rather slowly.
- e) a prepositional phrase - I found the key under the bed.

12. Explain the difference between *a clause* and *a sentence*.