

## Semantic roles of clause elements – KEY

**SUBJECT** - **agentive** participant (the doer of the action)  
- the animate participant that causes the happening denoted by the verb  
- *John is cleaning the windows.*

**DIRECT OBJECT** - **affected** participant  
- animate or inanimate, not causing the happening but directly involved in the action  
- *We've sold **our house**.*

**INDIRECT OBJECT** - **recipient** participant  
- animate being, passively involved by the happening or state  
- *I bought **him** a book.*

**SUBJECT or OBJECT COMPLEMENT** - **attribute**

- current attribute: with verbs used statively
- resulting attribute: with verbs used dynamically
- *She is **my sister**. I consider her **my best friend**.* = current attribute
- *She became **a teacher**. She drives me **mad**.* = resulting attribute
- *She is **a doctor**. They named their son **James**.* = identification
- *She is **a good doctor**. I find her **clever**.* = characterization