

Lesson 1

1. Revision

- see Handout No. 1 (Lesson 1)

References:

Chalker, S. (1998) *A Student's English Grammar Workbook*. Essex: Longman. – Chapter 2, pp. 7 – 10.

Greenbaum, S. and R. Quirk (1990) *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*. Essex: Longman. – Chapter 2, pp. 11 – 23.

2. The simple sentence

- the simple sentence x complex sentence x compound sentence:

In a **SIMPLE** sentence all sentence elements are expressed by PHRASES. A simple sentence is a **single independent clause**:

She is smart. I put it on the table.

In a **COMPLEX** sentence at least one sentence element must be expressed by a CLAUSE. A complex sentence contains one MATRIX clause (the main clause) and at least one SUBORDINATE clause. We talk about **subordination**:

Yesterday I came home rather late. – simple sentence

Yesterday I came home when it was rather late. – complex sentence

In a **COMPOUND** sentence there are two or more coordinate clauses. We talk about **coordination**:

I like him, but he doesn't like me. We can go to the cinema, or we can stay at home. She's beautiful and really intelligent too.

- see slide No. 1 for more detail (Lesson 1)

- clause types (simple sentence; answers to handout No. 2):

- *How many **clause types** do we have in English?*

We distinguish **seven** clause types (SV, SVC, SVA, SVO, SVOO, SVOA, SVOC).

- *According to which criteria do they differ?*

The types differ according to whether one or more clause elements are obligatorily present in addition to the S (subject) and V (verb). The V element in a simple sentence is always a finite verb phrase.

- Which clause element determines what other elements (apart from S) will be present in a sentence? ... a VERB

- What do you know about **optional adverbials** in connection with clause types?

Any number of optional adverbials can be added without changing the clause type:

e.g. *The sun is shining.* **Luckily**, the sun is **already** shining. = SV

He is at home. He is **probably** at home **now**. = SVA

You can put the book on the table. **Later**, you can **perhaps** put the dish on the table. = SVOA

- Clause types are closely connected with **verb classes**; there are **3 main verb classes**. Which are they?

intransitive verbs – followed by no obligatory element, and occur in type **SV** (*shine, work, ...*)

transitive verbs – all verbs requiring an object. They can be further classified:

monotransitive – **SVO** (*bore, see, ...*)

ditransitive – **SVOO** (*give, send, show, ...*)

complex-transitive – **SVOC** (*find*) and **SVOA** (*put*)

copular verbs – followed by a SUBJECT COMPLEMENT or an ADVERBIAL; thus occur in types: **SVC** (*seem*) and **SVA** (*be*)

(Which verbs can normally build the passive? ...transitive verbs – there are exceptions, though – so called **middle verbs** that seem transitive but normally occur only in the active: *They have three daughters. This jumper doesn't fit you. Three times three equals nine. I lack further information.*)

- Explain the following term: **multiple class membership of verbs**. Give some examples:

For instance, the verb *to get* can belong to different verb classes, and hence can enter into more than one clause type:

She's getting upset. – SVC

You'll get a long letter. – SVO

She got him a pricey gift. - SVOO

Sometimes different interpretations are possible (ambiguities can arise):

I found her an entertaining partner. SVOC or SVOO

He is preparing his family dinner. SVO or SVOO

- What is understood by the **complementation of the verb**?

Complementation of the verb comprises any clause/sentence element (O, C and A) that is needed in order to form a **grammatically acceptable sentence**:

* *I put it.* * *The dinner tastes.* – these are incomplete structures, they are unacceptable

However, in some cases, an element can be considered grammatically optional:

I'm eating. SV *I'm eating lunch.* SVO

I'm teaching. SV *I'm teaching English.* SVO *I'm teaching you English.* SVOO

- these verbs have a multiple class membership

- *What is a broader notion: **complement** or **complementation**?*

Most verbs require a particular **complementation**, which can be of **three kinds**: O, C, A.

Complement (C) is one kind of complementation, thus complementation is a broader notion than complement. Complement is one of the sentence/clause elements.

- *What is the relationship between **phrases = forms** and **clause elements = functions**?*

- **syntactic characterization of clause elements**

(see Chalker 1998: 7, 8 for more detail and for revision, and also the corresponding chapter in Greenbaum and Quirk 1990 – chapter 2)

- when we talk of PHRASES we are talking of FORMAL CATEGORIES – the way phrases are formed
- when we talk of CLAUSE ELEMENTS we are thinking of the way different kinds of formal phrases FUNCTION, how the same kind of phrase can express different elements

VERB – always realized by a VP; normally present in all clauses; determines what other elements must occur; in a simple sentence always a finite verb phrase

SUBJECT – typically a NP (or a subjective form of pronouns); determines the number and person of the verb, where relevant

OBJECT – typically a NP (or objective form of pronouns); normally follows the S and V, if two objects, then usually the indirect one precedes the direct one; can become the S of the corresponding passive clause

COMPLEMENT – typically a NP or an AdjP; subject complement relates to the S x object complement relates to the O; does not have a corresponding passive subject

ADVERBIAL – can be realized by AdvP, PP, NP or CLAUSE:

e.g. I'm coming tomorrow / in the afternoon / this evening / when I finish my homework. ;

can occur in more than one position in the clause; frequently optional except in SVA and SVOA

References:

Chalker, S. (1998) *A Student's English Grammar Workbook*. Essex: Longman. – Chapters 2 and 10, pp. 7-10; 74-76.

Greenbaum, S. and R. Quirk (1990) *A Student's Grammar of the English Language*. Essex: Longman. Chapters 2 and 10, pp. 11-23; 204-208.