

English Grammar II

Word order choices

What do I need to do to pass this course?

- 1) Do the re-sits if you need to** (available in ELF May 31 – June 13);
- 2) Check your absences** (I'll send you an overview after this class). If you have more than one absence, contact T. Šplíchalová for an extra assignment at tereza.splichalova@mail.muni.cz.
- 3) Register for a submission date regarding your final oral presentation via IS.** (Fridays 4/6, 11/6, 18/6, 25/6, 2/7, 9/7).
- 4) Prepare an oral presentation on a topic of your choice and submit it in ELF.** More info is to be found in ELF, but everything is as it was last semester.

Get in touch with me if there are any questions: david.ryska@mail.muni.cz

What's the *unmarked* English word order?

My mother

makes

the best lasagna.

What's the *unmarked* English word order?

S

My mother

V

makes

O

the best lasagna.

When do we use *marked* word order?

- 1) *Once upon a time there **was** a small kingdom. In the kingdom there **lived** a king and his three daughters. The daughters' names were...* information flow (given vs. new information)
- 2) ***It's my mom** who makes the best lasagna.* focus and emphasis
- 3) *I didn't do it, and **neither** did she.* contrast
- 4) ***Also popular for travelling** are quilted, overblown pseudo-ski jackets in pink or blue that look like duvets rampants.* weight

How can we manipulate the word order?

- 1) ***This** I do not understand.*
- 2) *At the podium **stood** her husband.*
- 3) *There was nobody here yesterday.*
- 4) *That picture of a frog, where is it?*
- 5) *What I really need is another credit card.*
- 6) *'Give it to me, Paul.' vs. 'Give me it, Paul.'*

existential *there* clauses

fronting

dislocation

clefting

subject-verb inversion

ordering of object

How can we manipulate the word order?

- 1) ***This** I do not understand.*
- 2) *At the podium **stood** her husband.*
- 3) ***There** was nobody here yesterday.*
- 4) ***That picture of a frog**, where is it?*
- 5) ***What I really need** is another credit card.*
- 6) *'Give **it to me**, Paul.' vs. 'Give **me it**, Paul.'*

fronting
inversion
existential there c.
dislocation
clefting
ordering of the object

Inversion

A) Subject-verb inversion

*Behind the chair **stood** **an old man**.*

*Out **came** **Mrs Morris**.*

B) Subject-operator inversion

*Little does **he realise** how important this meeting is. (negative expressions)*

*John can speak and so can **I**. (parallel addition)*

*So badly was **he affected** that he had to learn to speak again. (after so, such, as)*

*May **the force be** with you. (formulaic expressions)*

Fronting, clefting, dislocation; what's the difference?

A) FRONTING

- almost anything following the verb can be fronted

***This** I don't understand.* (fronted NP in object position)

***Whether Nancy was there** she could not be certain.* (fronted adj. complement)

***Far more serious** were the severe head injuries.* (fronted predicative)

***Waiting below** was Michael Sams.* (fronted non-finite clause)

B) CLEFTING

- breaking up a single piece of info into two clauses;
- begins with *it* (it-clefts) or a *wh-word* (wh-clefts), contains finite *to be*

It's a man I want. <compare: I want a man>

It's here that the finite element analysis comes into its own.

What I really need is another credit card.

C) DISLOCATION

- contains a definite NP (or a proper name) + a co-referential pronoun in the core clause

***This little shop**, it's lovely. (preface)*

***Sharon** she plays bingo on Sunday nights. (preface)*

*Has it got double doors, **that ship?** (noun phrase tag)*