

Chapter(7):The Simple Sentence

7.1 A simple sentence is a one-clause sentence. There are **seven** clause types:

1.S Vintens Aplace, as in: Mary is in the house.

2.S Vintens Cs, as in: Mary is kind. (**kind** is an adjective).

Mary is a nurse. (**a nurse** is a noun).

3.S Vmonotrans Od, as in: Somebody caught the ball.

4.S Vcomplex trans Od Aplace, as in: I put the plate on the table.

5.S Vcomplex trans Od Co, as in: We have proved him wrong. (**wrong** is an adjective).

We have proved him a fool. (**a fool** is a noun).

6.S Vditrans Oi Od, as in: She gives me expensive presents.

7.S Vintrans, as in: The child laughed.

7.3 Complementation: There are a number of complements: one object, two objects, etc.

1. He is eating. (no complement)

2. He is eating **an apple**. (Od)

3. He made **her career**. (Od)

4. He made her **career a success**. (Od+Co)

5.He is teaching.(no complement)

6.He is teaching **German**.(Od)

7.He is teaching **the boys German**.(Oi+Od)

N.B.It is to be mentioned that there are **three** types of transitive verb in English:

1.Monotransitive verbs:I wrote **a letter**.

2.Ditransitive verbs:I bought **Jim a laptop**.

3.Complex transitive verbs:They have elected **him chairman**.

N.B.There is an intransitive verb as well,as we see in:The child laughed.

A monotransitive verb is that which requires one object to follow,as in:

1.He wrote a report.

2.The man read a novel last week.

A ditransitive verb is the verb that requires two objects to follow:the first one is indirect object and the second one is direct object,as in:

1.She gave **me a book**.

2.I sent **them a telegram**.

A complex transitive verb is the verb that requires an object and an object complement to follow,as in:

1.The Queen considered **him a genius**.

2.They elected **him president** last month.

7.4 Optional adverbials: Notice that the majority of adverbials in English are characterised by being mobile and optional. In these sentences, the adverbials are optional:

1. (Sometimes) she sings (beautifully).
2. (In America) most students are (now) on vacation.
3. She (kindly) sent us some photographs.

Note that the elements in parentheses are optional adverbials.

N.B. It is to be noted that we need to be fully aware of these abbreviations:

S=Subject

V=VERB

O=Object

C=Complement

A=Adverb(ial)

Oi=Indirect object

Od=Direct object

Co=Object complement

Cs=Subject complement

Aplace=Adverb(ial) of place

Atime=Adverb(ial) of time

4.5 Transformational relations: Clauses containing a noun phrase as object are distinguished by their ability to be converted into passive clauses, as in:

1a. Many critics disliked the play.

b. The play was disliked (by many critics).

2a. My younger son broke the window.

b. The window was broken by my younger son.

3a. Queen Victoria considered him a genius.

b. He was considered a genius by Queen Victoria.

4a. An intruder must have placed the ladder there.

b. The ladder must have been placed there by an intruder.

N.B. A type SVOO clause can have **two** passive forms:

1a. My father gave me this watch. (Active)

b. I was given this watch by my father. (Passive-1)

c. This watch was given me by my father. (Passive-2)

Notice that, sometimes, there is equivalence between Types SV, SVC, and SVA, as shown in:

1a. The baby is sleeping. (S V)

b. The baby is asleep. (S V Cs)

2a. He hurried. (S V)

b.He went fast.(S V A)

3a.He is jobless.(S V Cs)

b.He is without a job.(S V A)

7.6 Intensive relationship:Notice that an SVOC clause is often equivalent to a clause with an infinitive or that-clause:

1a.I imagined her beautiful.

b.I imagined her to be beautiful.

c.I imagined that she was beautiful.

Moreover,SVOO clauses can be transformed into SVOA clauses by the substitution of a prepositional phrase for the indirect object,with a change of order:

1a.She sent Jim a card.

b.She sent a card to Jim.

2a.She left Jim a card.

b.She left a card for Jim.

7.7 Multiple class membership of verbs:Note that one verb can belong to a number of different classes:

1.He is **getting** angry.(S V C)

2.He **got** through the window.(S V A)

3.He'll **get** a surprise.(S V O)

4. He got his shoes and socks wet. (S V O C)

5. He got himself into trouble. (S V O A)

6. He got her a splendid present. (S V O O)

7.8 Clause elements syntactically defined:

1. A **subject** is normally a noun phrase or a clause with nominal function. It occurs before the verb phrase in declarative clauses, and immediately after the operator in questions; moreover, it should have number and person concord with the verb phrase.

2. An **object**, like a subject, is a noun phrase or clause with nominal function. It normally follows the subject and the verb phrase and by the passive transformation, it assumes the status of subject.

3. An **indirect object** precedes the **direct object**, and is semantically equivalent to a prepositional phrase.

4. A **complement** is a noun phrase, an adjective phrase, or a clause with nominal function, having a co-referential relation with the subject (or object). It follows the subject, verb phrase, and object, if there happens to be one. A complement does not become subject through the passive transformation.

5. An **adverbial** is an adverb phrase, adverbial clause, noun phrase, or prepositional phrase. It is generally mobile, i.e. is capable of occurring in more than one position in the clause; it is generally optional, i.e. may be added to or removed from a sentence without affecting its acceptability.

7.9 Clause elements semantically considered:

1. **Agentive**: It is the semantic role of a subject; it indicates the animate that instigates or causes the happening denoted by the verb, as in:

1. **John** opened the letter.