

Grammar- 1

Sentence

A group of words which makes complete sense is called a Sentence.

Kinds of Sentences

Sentences are of four kinds:

Those which make statements or assertions are called Declarative or Assertive sentences.

E.g. Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

Those which ask questions are called Interrogative sentences.

E.g. Where do you live?

Those which express commands, requests are called Imperative sentences.

E.g. Be quiet.

Have mercy upon us.

Those which express strong feelings are called Exclamatory sentences.

E.g. How cold the night is!

What a shame!

Parts of a Sentence

Subject and Predicate

When we make a sentence:

- We name some person or thing;
- Say something about that person or thing.

In other words, we must have a subject to speak about, and we must say or predicate something about that subject. Hence every sentence has two parts:

(1) The part which names the person or thing we are speaking about is called the subject of the sentence.

(2) The part which tells something about the subject is called the Predicate of the sentence.

E.g. The sun rises in the east.

The sun (Subject); rises in the east (Predicate)

The subject of a sentence usually comes first, but occasionally it is put after the Predicate.

E.g. Here comes the bus.

In Imperative sentences, the subject is left out

E.g. Sit down. [Here the Subject You is understood].

Thank him. [Here too the subject You is understood.]

A sentence can also be divided into:

- Subject: who/what the sentence is about.
- Verb: What the subject does/is.
- Object: a person or thing that is affected or related to the action of a verb.

E.g. The sun rises in the east.

The sun (Subject); rises (Verb); in the east (Object)

The basic word order of present-day English sentences: Subject + Verb + Object.

Phrase and Clause

A group of words, which makes sense, but not complete sense, is called a Phrase.

E.g. in the east

A group of words which includes a subject and a verb but still feels incomplete is called a Clause.

E.g. The sun rises

Parts of Speech

Words are divided into different classes, called Parts of Speech, according to their use; that is, according to the work they do in a sentence. The parts of speech are eight in number:

1. **Noun** - name, place, animal or thing.
2. **Adjective** - describes the noun.
3. **Pronoun** - substitutes the noun
4. **Verb** - expresses an action or state
5. **Adverb** - adds to the meaning of a verb, an adjective or another adverb
6. **Preposition** – shows the relation between the two nouns or pronouns
7. **Conjunction** – words used to join sentences or parts of sentences
8. **Interjection** – expresses some sudden feeling. E.g. **Hurray!** We won the match.

E.g. The **old** **man** **was** **sitting** **under** **a** **tree** **and** **patiently** **waiting** **for** **his** **son** **to** **arrive**.

the, a – Articles

old – Adjective

man, tree, son – Nouns

sitting, waiting – verb;

to arrive – infinitive form

was – auxiliary verb

under, for - prepositions

and – conjunctions

patiently – adverb

his – pronoun

1. A Noun is a word used as the name of a person, place, or thing.

E.g. Akbar was a great king. – Akbar, king

Kolkata is on the Hooghly. – Kolkata, Hooghly

The rose smells sweet. - rose

The sun shines bright. - sun

His courage won him honour. – courage, honour

Note: The word thing includes (i) all objects that we can see, hear, taste, touch, or smell; and (ii) something that we can think of, but cannot perceive by the senses.

2. An Adjective is a word used to add something to the meaning of a noun.

E.g. He is a brave boy. - brave

There are twenty boys in this class. - twenty

3. A Pronoun is a word used instead of a noun.

E.g. John is absent because he is ill. - he

The book is where you left it. – you, it

4. A Verb is a word used to express an action or state.

E.g. The girl wrote a letter to her cousin. - wrote

Kolkata is a big city. - is

Iron and copper are useful metals. – are

5. An Adverb is a word used to add something to the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

E.g. He worked the sum quickly. - quickly

This flower is very beautiful. - very

She pronounced the word quite correctly. – quite, correctly

6. A Preposition is a word used with a noun or a pronoun to show how the person or thing denoted by the noun or pronoun stands in relation to something else.

E.g. There is a cow in the garden. - in

The girl is fond of music. - of

A fair little girl sat under a tree. – under

7. A Conjunction is a word used to join words or sentences.

E.g. Rama and Hari are cousins. - and

Two and two make four. - and

I ran fast but missed the train. – but

8. An Interjection is a word which expresses some sudden feeling.

E.g. Hurrah! We have won the game. - Hurrah

Alas! She is dead. – Alas

Some modern grammars include determiners among the parts of speech. Determiners are words like a, an, the, this, that, these, those, every, each, some, any, my, his, one, two, etc., which determine or limit the meaning of the nouns that follow.

As words are divided into different classes according to the work, they do in sentences, it is clear that we cannot say to which part of speech a word belongs unless we see it used in a sentence.

They arrived soon after. (Adverb)

They arrived after us. (Preposition)

They arrived after we had left. (Conjunction)