

First Year Grammar

Cellule télé-enseignement UC1

Miss Amina Ghoul

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Objectifs



- Students will be able to identify the different parts of speech.
- Students will be able to recognize sentences and their constituents.
- Students will differentiate between countable and uncountable nouns.
- Students will be able to differentiate between adjectives and adverbs.
- Students will use the aquired language structures in the appropriate context.



3. A phrase (Phr.) is a group of words not making a clause or a sentence. That is to say, A phrase is a small group of words that forms a meaningful unit within a clause.

E.g.: I will meet you at the end of the day.

Phr.^{AA}

1.1. Types of sentences

1. Simple sentence

A simple sentence normally contains one statement (known as a main clause[⊕]). For example:

The train should be here soon.

His father worked as a journalist.

2. Compound sentence

A compound sentence contains two or more clauses of equal status (or main clauses), which are normally joined by a conjunction such as and or but.

E.gs. : -Joe became bored with teaching and he looked for a new career.

[main clause] [conjunction] [main clause]

- Boxers can be very friendly dogs but they need to be trained.

[main clause] [conjunction] [main clause]

3. Complex sentence

A complex sentence is also made up of clauses, but in this case the clauses are not equally balanced. They contain a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

E.gs. : -The story would make headlines if it ever became public.

[main clause] [subordinate clause]

- He took up the project again as soon as he felt well enough.

[main clause] [subordinate clause]



sentence structure

2. II. Subject/Verb/Object (SVO: Direct Object (Dir.O) Indirect Object (Indir.O)).

E.g.1: The student wrote a paragraph.

S Transi. Dir.

V O

E.g.2: He gave his sister a present.

S Transi. Indir. Dir.

V O O

2.1. Note

- A transitive verb (Transi.V) requires an object otherwise the meaning would not be complete.

3. III. Subject/Verb/Modifier (SVM)

A modifier is a word, phrase, or clause which functions as an adjective or an adverb to describe a word or make its meaning more specific.

E.g.1: The girl came (late).

S Intransi. M

V

E.g.2: The dog barked (all night).

S Intransi. M

V

Note: Anintransitive verb[∞] (Intransi.V) may have a M.

3.1. Examples of modifiers

Modifiers can play the roles of adjectives or adverbs.

Modifiers As Adjectives:

When a modifier is an adjective, it modifies a noun or a pronoun. (In these examples, the modifiers are shaded, and the words being modified are bold).

- Lee caught a small mackerel.

(Here, the adjective small modifies the noun mackerel.)

- Lee caught a small mackerel.

(Don't forget that articles (i.e., the, an, and a) are adjectives too. Here, a modifies the nounmackerel as does small.)

- Lee caught another one.

(Here, the adjective another modifies the pronoun one.)

Modifiers As Adverbs :

When a modifier is an adverb, it modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. For example:

- Lee accidentally caught a small whelk.

(Here, the adverb accidentally modifies the verb caught.)

- Lee caught an incredibly small mackerel.

(Here, the adverb incredibly modifies the adjective small.)

- Lee supposedly accidentally caught a small whelk.

(Here, the adverb supposedly modifies the adverb accidentally.)

A Modifier Can Be a Phrase or a Clause :

Don't forget that phrases and clauses can play the roles of adjectives and adverbs too. For example:

- Lee caught a mackerel smaller than a Mars bar.

(This is an adjective phrase modifying the noun mackerel.)

- Lee caught a mackerel of tiny proportions.

(This is a prepositional phrase functioning as an adjective. It modifies the noun mackerel.)

- Lee caught a mackerel which was smaller than a Mars bar.

(This is an adjective clause modifying mackerel.)

- When alone, Lee tried to catch mackerel.

(This is an adverbial phrase (of time) modifying the verb tried.)

- When we left him alone, Lee set up his rod to catch mackerel.

(This is an adverbial clause (of time) modifying the verb set up.)

4. Subject/Verb/Complement (SVC)

Complement is the term used for a word (or words) which are needed to complete the meaning of an expression.

Most phrases and clauses will include a complement of some kind. If you can't remove it from your sentence, then it's likely to be a complement. This is how complements differ from adjuncts. Adjuncts are optional as they are usually just descriptive. Complements are not optional. They are essential to ensure understanding.

E.g.1: This boy is a student.

S State C

V

E.g.2: She looks tired.

S State C

V

Note: A state verb requires a complement.

4.1. Examples of Complements

Here are some examples of complements (complements shaded):

- John is weak.

(The adjective weak tells us something about the subject (John). This is an example of a subject complement.)

- John is a chicken.

(The noun phrase a chicken tells us something about the subject (John). This is another example of a subject complement.)

- The vote made John's position untenable.

(The adjective untenable tells us something about the object (John's position). This is an example of an object complement.)

- We voted John chairman.

(The noun chairman tells us something about the object (John). This is another example of an object complement.)

5. The Subject (S)

E.g.1: The board is clean.

S

(N)

E.g.2: They have arrived.

S

(Pron.)

E.g.3: Not seeing you made him angry.

S

(Phr.)

E.g.4: The fact that he did not see you made him angry.

S

(Cl.)

5.1. Note

- Note: - The S can be a N, or a Pron., or a Phr., or a Cl. .
- To find the S, ask the question “who” or “what”.

6. The Object (O)

E.g.1: He is eating an icecream.

O

(N)

E.g.2: He cooked it.

O

(Pron.)

E.g.3: They invited all their friends.

O

(Phr.)

E.g.4: He likes what is good for his health.

O

(Cl.)

6.1. Note

- Note: - The O can be a N, a Pron., a Phr., or a Cl.
- To find the O, ask the question “what” with a Transi. V.

7. The Modifier (M)

E.g.1: He came late.

M

(Adv.)

E.g.2: He came at the end of the film.

M

(Phr.)

E.g.3: He came after everybody left.

M

(Cl.)

7.1. Note

- A modifier can come before whatever it modifies (called a premodifier) or afterwards (called a postmodifier).

8. The Complement (C)

E.g.1: The girl looks like her mother.

C

(N)

E.g.2: The girl looks like her.

C

(Pron.)

E.g.3: The girl looks ill.

C

(Adj.)

E.g.4: The girl looks as ill as her sister.

C

(phr.)

E.g.5: The girl looks as ill as the doctor expected.

C

(Cl.)

Note: - The C can be a N, a Pron., an Adj., a Phr., or a Cl. .

- To find the C, ask the question “what” or “how” with a state V.

8.1. Note

There is some confusion surrounding the term complement. This confusion is largely caused by the way the different types of complements are classified. For example, the term object complement is used for:

- a complement which complements an object, and
- a complement which is an object.

Look at this example:

- He wiped the slate clean.

(The adjective clean complements the object the slate. Therefore, clean is an object complement.)

- He wiped the slate clean.

(The noun phrase the slate is the direct object of wiped. Therefore, the slate is an object complement too.)

So, in this example, the object complement (the slate) has its own object complement (clean).

8.2. Exercise

[Solution p 32]

What is the difference between a complement and a modifier ?

Sentence Parts: Word Categories

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1. The pronoun

A Personal Pronoun Subject (Pers. Pron.): I, you, she, he, it, we, you, they.

ii) A Personal Pronoun Object (Pers. Pron. O): me, you, her, him, it, us, you, them.

iii) A Relative Pronoun (Rela. Pron.) (also called subordinating conjunction : Subord. Conj.): who, which, whom, whose, that (See Lesson Six).

iv) A Possessive Pronoun (Poss. Pron.): mine, yours, hers, his, its, ours, yours, theirs.

v) A Demonstrative Pronoun (Dem. Pron.):this, that, these, those.

vi) A Reflexive Pronoun (Refl. Pron.): myself, yourself, herself, himself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves.

vii) An Indefinite Pronoun (Indef. Pron.): There are four categories of Indef. Pron.s:

1. With every: everybody, everyone, everything.
2. With some: somebody, someone, something.
3. With any: anybody, anyone, anything.
4. With no: nobody, no one, nothing.



*parts of speech***1.1. Note**

- A pronoun replaces a noun: it cannot be followed by a noun.

2. A Conjunction (Conj.)**2.1. Types of conjunctions**

1. Coordinating conjunctions are used to relate words of the same word category.
E.g. : She was born in Spain But her mother is Polish.
2. Subordinating conjunctions used to link a main clause to a subordinating clause.
E.g. : She wants to be with Thomas, who is best suited to take care of her.

3. An Article (Arti.)**3.1. Kinds of articles**

- Definite article : "The" which, as the name indicates, used in a determined specific situation.
- Indefinite articles : "A" and "An" which are used in undetermined situations. "A" preceded consonants while "an" precedes vowels.

4. A Demonstrative (Dem.)

E.g.: This should have never happened.

Note: When followed by a noun, it is a Dem. Adj. .

E.g.: This man is tall.

Dem. N

Adj.

4.1. What are demonstratives ?

- Demonstratives are this/these, that/those.
- Demonstratives show where an object, event, or person is in relation to the speaker. They can refer to a physical or a psychological closeness or distance. When talking about events, the near demonstratives are often used to refer to the present while the far demonstratives often refer to the past.

Examples :

- His blue car needs to be washed next.
- Those people were here first.
- That metal rod should work.
- These oranges are delicious.

5. A Participle**5.1. A Present Participle (Pr. Parti.)**

E.g.: He is working.

Pr.

Parti.

5.1.2. Note

- The present participle is used in present and past continuous.

E.g. : - He is studying.

- He was studying.

5.2. A Past Participle (PP)

E.g.: He has worked.

PP

5.2.2. Note

- The past participle can be regular (verb+ed) or irregular.

_ It is used with the present and past perfect.

6. An Auxiliary (Aux.)

i) To be: The auxiliary “to be” can be followed by a Pr. Parti. or a PP.

E.g.1: I am working.

Pr.

Parti.

E.g.2: It has been worked out.

PP

ii) To have: The auxiliary “to have” is always followed by a PP.

E.g.: I have gone home.

PP

6.1. What are auxiliary verbs ?

- Basically, auxiliary verbs are function words, a type of closed class which is constituted of words that have a grammatical function as opposed to content words, which are an open class of lexical words. An auxiliary verb is used to add functional or grammatical content to the information expressed by another verb, considered to be the main verb. Auxiliary verbs are also called helping verbs.

Examples:

- I am writing a book.

- He has done the work.

- We will be there in a minute.

7. A Modal

7.1. will/shall + to Inf. (F) will/shall + have + PP (FP)

E.g.1: I will call you tomorrow.

Modal to

Inf.

E.g.2 : I will have finished when you come home.

Modal PP

7.1.2. Note

- The modals will and shall can be used to express the future.
- They are also used to make polite requests.

E.g. : Will/ shall you open the door, please ?

7.2. would + to Inf. (Pr. Condi.) would + have + PP (P Condi.)

E.g.1: I would come if you tell me.

Modal to

Inf.

E.g.2: I would have come if you had told me.

Modal PP

7.2.2. Note

- Would + stem is used with conditional type 2 that expresses unreal possibility.
 - Would have + PP is used with conditional type 3 which expresses an impossibility in the past.
- E.gs. : - If I were rich, I would buy a yacht.
 - If the Titanic had not sunk, Jack and Rose would have married.

7.3. can/could + to Inf. (Pr.): possibility/authorization. could + have + PP (p)

E.g.1: Can (could) he come with me?

Modal to

Inf.

E.g.2: Could he have come with me?

Modal PP

Note: Depending on the context, this means: "Is it possible for him to come with me?" or "Is he allowed to come with me?"

7.3.2. Note

- Can and could can be used to express other functions in addition to possibility and authorization such as making polite requests, offers, suggestions, promises, warnings ...

7.4. may + to Inf. (Pr.): authorization may/might + have + PP (P)

E.g.1: You may use my desk.

Modal to

Inf.

E.g.2: You may (might) have used my desk.

Modal PP

7.4.2. Note

- May and might can be used to express different functions such as permission.

7.7.2. Note

- Do, does and did are used to ask questions and to make negatives in addition to making the meaning emphatic.

8. An Interrogative

An Interrogative: how, what, when, why, where, who, which, whose, whom, used in a question.

8.1. Note

- Some of the interrogatives can be a subordinating conjunction when used in a clause.

E.g. When he finished, he left the room.

Subord.

Conj.

9. An Interjection

An Interjection (an exclamation): oh! Ah! Hum!

9.1. Note

- Interjections are used to express surprise, anger....

10. A Determiner (Det.)

A determiner is (a) word (s) which determine (s) a N.

i) An Arti.

ii) A Dem. Adj.

iii) A Poss. Adj.

E.g.: My book is here.

Poss. N

Adj.

iv) Numerals (Num.) (numbers)

- One, two,

E.g.: A thousand girls went to see the film.

Num. N

- First, second,.....

E.g.: The first girl is my sister.

Num.

Note1: When "one" is used without a N, it is a Pron. .

E.g.: This book is a better one.

Pron.

Note2: When "first, second,....." are used without a N, they are adverbs.

E.g.: First, sit down.

Adv.

v) Det. of quantity

Spending [redacted] time there helps me in my work. I can see interesting scenes (6) or [redacted] meet unusual people, and I often overhear fascinating conversations. Yesterday, I met (7) two [redacted] men who gave me the idea to write a new novel. Today, I start writing (8) that [redacted] novel and tomorrow, I (9) will [redacted] go to Josie's to meet other (10) people [redacted].



1.1. Note

- It is so important to differentiate between CN and Unc. N to know the appropriate articles and quantifiers to be used.
- We cannot use many/few with uncountable nouns, but we can say some/much/ a lot of/ all of the/ most of the water, butter, cheese, etc.



Nouns

2. In a Definite (Specific) Situation

E.g.1: The plate is cold.

Def. CN

Arti. Sing.

E.g.2: The chairs are broken.

Def. CN

Arti. Plur.

E.g.3: The coffee you sold me is nice.

Def. Unc.N

Arti.

E.g.4: The coffees I drank were very hot.

Def. CN

Arti. Plur.

2.1. Note

- In a definite situation, a CN singular (Sing.) or plural (Plur.), an Unc.N must have the Def. Arti. "the".
 - It's used when the speaker talks about a specific object that both the person speaking and the listener know.
- E.g. : The car over there is fast.
- The president of the United States is giving a speech tonight.
 - When we speak of something or someone for the first time we use a or an, the next time we repeat that object we use the definite article the.
- E.g. : I live in a house. The house is quite old and has four bedrooms.
- E.g. : I ate in a Chinese restaurant. The restaurant was very good.

3. In an Indefinite Situation

E.g.1: I would like a dress, please!

Unc.N

E.g.2: I can see five fish.

Num. CN

4.1. Note

- Some nouns can be countable or uncountable depending on the context.

E.g.1 : give me two teas (CN i.e., two cups of tea)

E.g.2 : I like tea. (UN)

Adjectives and Adverbs

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1. Definitions

1. Adjectives and adverbs are modifiers. They make clearer other words in a sentence.

2. An adjective is a word that modifies a N or a Pron. .

E.g.: The new student has arrived.

Adj. N

E.g.: She is nice.

Pron. Adj.

3. An Adv. Is a word which modifies a V or an Adj. or an Adv. or the whole sentence.

E.g.: They read fast.

V Adv.

E.g.: He was very slow.

Pron. Adv. Adj.

E.g.: She sings really well.

V Adv. Adv.

E.g.: Yesterday, they watched a film.

Adv.

1.1. Note

Adjectives are words like short, old, cheap, happy, nice, electric. Most adjectives express quality; they tell us what something is like.

An adjective always has the same form, except for comparison (shorter, shortest).

2. Adjectives

2.1. Word Formation

An adjective is usually made of a N or a V, sometimes an Adj. plus:

- al: national, economical, regional.

N Adj. N

- ish: childish, foolish, British, feverish.

N N N(Britain) N

- ive: productive, attractive, communicative.

N V V(to communicate)

- ly: friendly, lovely, likely.

N N/V Prep.

- y: lucky, angry, lazy.

N N(anger) V(to laze)

- ous: dangerous, delicious, monotonous, continuous.

N N(Fr.:delice) N(monotony) V(to continue)

- ed: delighted, pleased, thrilled.

N V(toplease) N/V

- ful: delightful, careful, thoughtful.

N N/V N

- an: Algerian, Asian, physician.

N(Algeria) N(Asia) N(Physics)

- ing: interesting, relaxing, embarrassing.

N/V V V

- ese: Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese.

N(China) N N(Portugal)

- ate: affectionate, ultimate, passionate.

N Adj.(Fr.:ultime) N

i.e. the last

2.1.2. Note

- Some adjectives do not require suffixes like : cheap, expensive clean, nice...



ADVERBS AND ADJECTIVES EASILY CONFUSED

- Some adjectives and adverbs have the same form. fast, hard, late, early, daily, weekly, monthly.

Adjectives	Adverbs
He caught the fast train.	He can fast to catch the train.
He caught the early train.	He always arrives early .
She's a hard worker.	She works hard .
The bus is always late .	I arrived home late .
My daily newspaper is 50p.	I swim daily .



adjectives and adverbs

- A Dem.Adj. shows the location (here or there) of the N.

Note

- The demonstrative adjectives this, these, that and those should be followed by a noun.
- If the demonstrative is followed by a verb, it becomes a demonstrative pronoun.
- E.g.1 : This is my pen. (This is this example is a Dem. Pron. because it is followed by a verb)
- E.g.2 : This pen is mine. (This is this example as a Dem. Adj.)

3. Adverbs

3.1. Word Formation

- An Adv. is usually made of an Adj. + ly.
- E.g.: Equally
- An adverbial can be an adverb phrase, prepositional phrase or noun phrase.
- E.g. : Luckily the money was *on my desk* when I arrived *this morning*.
- Some adverbials come next to the word or phrase they modify.
- E.g. : Those people over there really nice
- Some adverbials modify a verb or a whole clause. They come in front, mid or end position.
- E.g. : Today the train actually left on time

3.1.2. Note

Many adverbs end in ly: quietly, finally, certainly. There are some pairs of adverbs like "hard" and "hardly" with different meanings.

3.2. Categories of Adverbs

3.2.1. Adverb of time

E.g. : She wil come tomorrow.

Note

- Adverb of time include : now, yesterday, tomorrow...

3.2.2. Adverb of frequency

E.g.2: The postman always (all the time) comes in the morning.

Note

- Adverbs of frequency : always, generally, sometimes, seldom, never...
- Adverbs of frequency follows the auxiliary "to be".
- E.g. : She is always happy.
- Adverbs of frequency precede the other verbs.
- E.g. : She generally arrives early.

3.2.3. Adverb of place

E.g.: They went outside.

Note

- Adverbs of place can function as prepositions.

3.2.4. Adverb of manner

E.g.: She works fast.

Note

- Some adverbs are irregular like : late, early, best...
- We cannot add ly to an adjective which already ends in ly. Instead we can either use a prepositional phrase with manner/way/fashion, or we can use another adverb.

E.g.1 : We received a friendly greeting.

E.g.2 : They greeted us in a friendly manner

3.2.5. Adverbs of degree

- Adverbs of degree include too, very, extremely, quite, really....
- E.g.: The sea is very deep.
- E.g.: She works quite fast.

Note

- Adverbs of Degree modify adjectives or adverbs (not verbs).

4. Adjectives or Adverbs?

Some words can be adjectives or adverbs depending on the context.

Fast: The fast runner came first. You must walk fast.

Adj. N V Adv.

Late: The late comers have to sit in the back. They arrived late.

Adj. N V Adv.

Early: She came in the early morning. She came early.

Adj. N V Adv.

Far: I can see him in the far distance. He can go far.

Adj. N V Adv.

Straight: Draw a straight line. Go straight to your room.

Adj. N V Adv.

Well: She is well. She sings well.

Pron. Adj; V Adv.

Hard: This is a hard chair. He works hard.

Adj. N V Adv.

4.1. Note

- Good is an adjective, and well is its adverb.

E.g. : Roger is a good singer, isn't he?

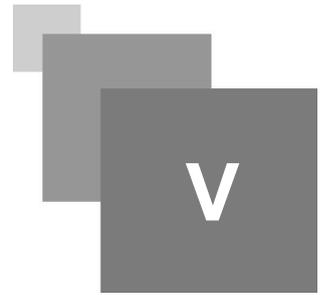
E.g. : Roger sings well, doesn't he? NOT He sings good.

- But well is also an adjective meaning 'in good health'.

E.g. : I was ill, but I'm well/I'm all right now.

E.g. : How are you? ~ Very well, Fine, thank you.

Exercise



[Solution p 32]

How can we make the difference between Dem. Pron. and Dem. Adj?

Exercise



VI

[Solution p 32]

Life in London is very exciting. _____, I rent a _____ flat near Hyde Park. It's in a _____ street. You'd be _____ to see it. We can _____ believe it's in London. My next-door neighbour is _____ helpful. At first, she seemed _____ but now we're _____ friends.

I hope you're both _____. Please give my love to everyone and write _____.

Exercise

VII

[Solution p 32]

, she likes but not milk or cheese.

yogurt

yogurts

Solution des exercices

> Solution n° 1

A complement is obligatory in the sentence ; we can't omit it because it appears with verbs of state while the modifier is optional in the sentence, it adds extra information.

> Solution n° 2

I (1) work (Intransi.V) as a professional writer. I like to get up very early in the morning and write while the (2) world is quiet and my (Poss. Adj.) mind is clear. However, by 10:00 a.m., I am usually ready for a break. (3) Several (Det. of quantity) times a week, I pack a newspaper, a small notebook, and some pencils, and I walk over to Josie's, a nearby coffee shop. Going to Josie's is always a pleasant experience. (4) During (Prep.) the ten-minute walk, I get the chance to breath fresh air, say hello to my friendly neighbours, and enjoy the colourful gardens along the way. (5) Spending (Gerund) time there helps me in my work. I can see interesting scenes (6) or (Conj.) meet unusual people, and I often overhear fascinating conversations. Yesterday, I met (7) two (Num.) men who gave me the idea to write a new novel. Today, I start writing (8) that (Dem.Adj.) novel and tomorrow, I (9) will (Modal) go to Josie's to meet other (10) people (Unc. N) .

> Solution n° 3

- a
- the
- an

> Solution n° 4

- the
- an
- a

> Solution n° 5

Dem. Adj is followed by a noun while Dem. Pron is followed by a verb

> Solution n° 6

Life in London is very exciting. Recently , I rent a lovely flat near Hide Park. It's in a large street. You'd be glad to see it. We can hardly believe it's in London. My next-door neighbour is very helpful. At first, she seemed weird but now we're good friends.

I hope you're both happy . Please give my love to everyone and write soon .

> Solution n° 7

- yogurt
- yogurts

Yogurt is uncountable noun

Glossaire



Clause

A clause is a group of related words containing a subject and a verb

Intransitive verb

It is a verb that does not require an object.

Main clause

It is a clause that can stand alone as a sentence, containing a subject and a predicate with a finite verb, as I was there in the sentence I was there when he arrived.



Bibliographie



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