

Phrases and Clauses

What is a phrase?

- A phrase is **one or more words functioning as a unit in a sentence**, usually containing a head word and accompanying modifiers

Head word: the main word in a phrase

Modifiers: words that describe the head word or give us more information about it

- If the modifier comes before the head word it is called a **pre-modifier**. If it comes after, it is known as a **post-modifier**

The tall girl

Premodification with an adjective

The person in the corner

Post modification by another noun

Noun phrases

- A noun phrase usually has a **noun or pronoun as its head word/** most important word

- These are all noun phrases:

The beach the sandy beach

the long, sandy beach the beach nearby

the beach across the bay

In all of these the head word is beach

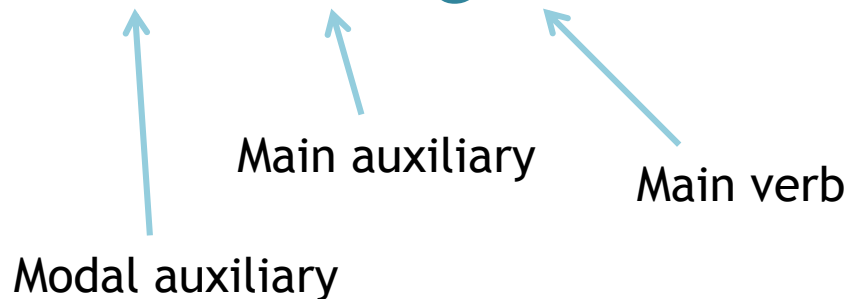
Adjectival phrases

- These phrases have the **adjective** as the **head word**
- These phrases can also be **pre-modified**:
very bored *pure white*

Verb phrases

- A verb phrase may have a number of auxiliary verbs but the **main verb is always the head word**

I should have gone to school today



Prepositional phrases

- These add **extra information** in a sentence
- They can act as **adverbials**, providing information about:
 - Time
 - Manner
 - Place

*The girl sat **in the shade***

Clauses

- Clauses are the **main structures** to compose a sentence
- A sentence will be made up of at least **one main clause** (that makes sense on its own) but may also contain **subordinate clauses** (that cannot make sense on their own and depend on the main clause for their meaning)
- Clauses can be made up of 5 elements...

Subject

The subject of a clause is the main person or thing that the clause is about. It **performs the action** that is described and usually comes before the verb

Verb

The verb is the second element

Object

The object normally follows the verb and usually provides an answer to the question **‘who or what has something been done to?’**

Complement

Gives more **information** about the subject (or the object)

Adverbial

This is usually a kind of optional extra in a sentence. It normally provides information of the following kinds:

- Time
- Manner
- Place

Most clauses contain a subject and a verb

Clause types

S + V	She fell
S + V + O	He closed the gate
S + V + O + O	Tom gave me a screwdriver
S + V + C	They were hungry
S + V + O + C	I found the film disturbing
S + V + A	She smiled broadly
S + V + O + A	I caught the train yesterday

Sentences

Simple sentences

...contains only one clause

- It includes a **single main verb** and a combination of some or all of the other clause elements (subject, object, complement, adverbial)

Compound sentences

...consists of two or more sentences joined together by a coordinating conjunction (e.g. and, but or so)

- Each clause in a compound sentence makes sense on its own, and each is of **equal importance**:

*Joe lived in Glasgow **and** his sister lived in London*

*The exam was difficult **but** he passed*

*You can jump in a taxi **or** you can wait for the bus*

Ellipsis occurs when part of a sentence is left out in order to avoid repetition. For example 'you can jump in a taxi or wait for the bus'. It is still a compound sentence because both parts make sense if the missing element is restored

Complex sentences

...one or more of the clauses is of **lesser importance** than the main clauses

- These lesser clauses are called **subordinate clauses**
- A subordinate clause **cannot stand on its own** and make sense

Common types of subordinate clauses

- **Clauses introduced by that:** here the subordinate clause acts as the object of the sentence
*'I thought **that the journey was slow**'*
- **Clauses introduced by a wh-word:** introduced by words such as *what, when, who, whether*
*'He told me **what he wanted**' 'She replied **when I wrote to her**'*
- **Adverbial clauses:** these act as adverbials and usually explain when, where or why something happened, introduced by such conjunctions as *before, while, since, because, until*
*'She left **before I arrived**' 'She left **because it was late**'*
- **Relative clauses:** these usually include the relative pronouns *who, which, whose* or *that*
*'The hand **that rocks the cradle** rules the world'*

Sentence moods

- Declarative sentences
make statements
- Interrogative sentences
ask questions
- Imperative sentences
give instructions of some kind - orders,
warnings, advice, invitations
- Exclamatory sentences
emphatic sentences, which are indicated
by the use of an exclamation mark

Word Structure

Morphemes

- A morpheme is the **smallest unit of language** that expresses meaning or serves a grammatical function; always a letter or group of letters

1	train	train
2	unfair	un + fair
3	hunters	hunt + er + s
4	truthfulness	true + th + ful + ness

Morphemes

- Words that have **more than one morpheme** usually consist of a **root word** and one or more **affixes**
- Affixes are morphemes that have been **added to the beginning or end** of the word
- An affix that appears at the **beginning** is called a **prefix**
- An affix that comes at the **end** is called a **suffix**

Free and bound morphemes

- **Free morphemes** are morphemes that **can stand alone** as words
- They are words that cannot be broken down any further
- Examples are *apple*, *train*, *orange*, *house*
- **Bound morphemes** are morphemes that **cannot stand alone**
- They have to be attached to other morphemes
- Examples include *un-*, *-er*, *-s*, *-th*, *-ful*, *-ness*

Inflection

- A letter or group of letters at the end of a word serving a **grammatical function**. They are always suffixes

Examples of purposes:

- Indicating a word is **plural**

Paper + s = papers Pony + ies = ponies

- Indicating a word is **possessive**

Henry + 's = Henry's

- Indicating the present tense verb is 3rd person singular

Walk + s = walks Go + es = goes

- Indicating a verb is past tense

Walk + ed = walked

- Indicating an adjective is comparative or superlative

Strong + er = stronger Strong + est = strongest

Derivational affixes

... are used to create new words. This can happen through the use of **prefixes**, **suffixes** or a combination of **both**

- They usually change the word class of the word they are added to, for example:

Sing (verb) + *er* = *singer* (noun)

Doubt (noun) + *ful* = *doubtful* (adjective)

Manage (verb) + *able* = *manageable*
(adjective)

Words and Meanings

Denotation and Connotation

- **Denotation** refers to the straightforward, objective meaning of a word
- **Connotation** refers to the associations that the word has - the emotions and attitudes it suggests

Lexical fields

- **Lexis** is another word for vocabulary
- A **lexical field** is a group of words with associated meanings and uses

For example, field specific lexis of computers:

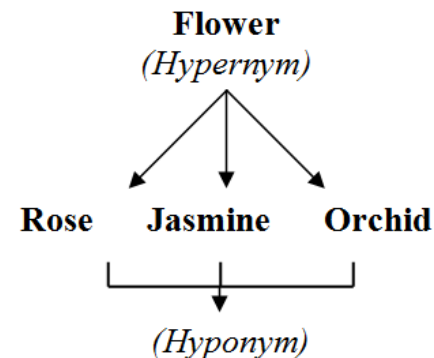
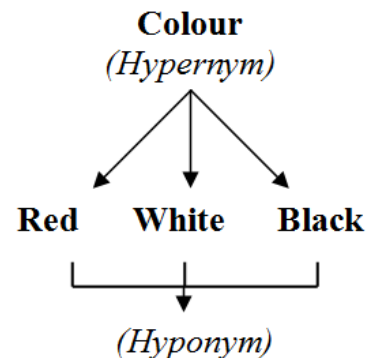
Software, modem, cursor, mouse, monitor

Hyponyms and hypernyms

- A **hyponym** is a word that is linked in meaning to, but more **specific** than, another word, known as a **hypernym**

The word flower is a **hypernym**

Hyponyms include rose, daffodil, carnation etc.



Synonyms

...are words that are **similar** in meaning

Antonyms

...are words whose meanings are in some way **opposite** to each other