The Magic Lens: Four-level Analysis

Grammar: a way of thinking about language

Four levels of traditional grammar: parts of speech, parts of sentence, phrases, clauses

Level I: Parts of Speech

Parts of Speech: the eight kinds of words in English
1. Noun: the name of a person, place, or thing
   a. Common or proper? (country, United States)
   b. Singular or plural? (child, children)
   c. Concrete or abstract? (desk, loyalty)
2. Pronoun: a word that takes the place of a noun
   a. Subject Pronouns: used for subjects of verbs and subject complements
      (Singular: I, you, he, she, it 
      Plural: we, you, they)
   b. Object Pronouns: used as direct or indirect objects, and objects of prepositions
      (Singular: me, you, him, her, it 
      Plural: us, you, them)
   c. Person: 1st, 2nd, or 3rd
   d. Antecedent: the noun the pronoun replaces
      EX: Ike caught the ball, and then he passed it. (Ike is the antecedent of he.)
   e. Other kinds of pronouns: demonstrative, interrogative, relative, indefinite
3. Adjective: a word that modifies a noun or pronoun (What kind? Which one? How many?)
   a. Article: the three adjectives a, an, and the
      o Definite article: the
      Example: He drives a blue car.
   b. Three Degrees of Adjectives: positive, comparative, superlative
      Examples: sharp, sharper, sharpest
      careful, more careful, most careful
4. Verb: a word that shows action, being, or links a subject to its subject complement
   a. Six verb tenses: present, past, future, present perfect, past perfect,
      future perfect
   b. Helping verb? (We will have attended the concert.)
   c. Singular or plural? (He brings his lunch. They bring their lunch.)
   d. Action or linking? (He threw the rock. He is angry.)
   e. Transitive or intransitive? (He threw the rock. The rock flew through the air.)
   f. Active voice or passive voice? (He threw the rock. The rock was thrown at him.)
5. Adverb: a word that modifies a verb, adjective, or adverb
   ( Tells How? When? Where? To what extent?) (Often ends in -ly)
   Example: The movie started early.
6. Conjunction: a word that joins words or groups of words
   a. Coordinating conjunctions: and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet
   b. Subordinating conjunctions: if, as, since, when, because....
   c. Correlative conjunctions: either or, neither nor, not only...but also, ....
   d. Conjunctive adverbs: therefore, however, nevertheless, .....
7. Preposition: shows the relationship between its object (the object of the preposition) and
   another word in the sentence Example: I received a letter from him.
8. Interjection: shows emotion but has no grammatical function
   Examples: Whew! Oh, I don't think so.

Level II: Parts of the Sentence

Sentence: a group of words that has a subject and a predicate, and makes a complete thought
Fragment: an incomplete thought

Steps in Identifying the Parts of the Sentence
Step 1: Find the SUBJECT/PREDICATE set.
   subject: the noun or pronoun that the sentence is about  EX: John sat in the back.
   predicate: the simple predicate is the verb  EX: John sat in the back.
Step 2: Decide whether the verb is ACTION or LINKING.

*If the verb is ACTION, then . . .*  

Look for a direct object.  

- direct object: the noun or object pronoun that receives the action of the action verb  
  Example: She brought the *sandwiches*. [Subject-Action Verb-Direct Object]

*If you find a direct object, then . . .*  

Look for an indirect object.  

- indirect object: the noun or object pronoun between the action verb and the direct object, that is indirectly affected by the noun  
  Example: She gave *him* the books. [Subject-Action Verb-Indirect Object-Direct Object]

*If the verb is LINKING, it must have a subject complement.*  

subject complement: the noun, subject pronoun, or adjective that is linked to the subject by a linking verb and that tells more (gives more complete information about) the subject

Two kinds of subject complements:
1. predicate nominative (also called *predicate noun* or *predicate pronoun*)  
   Example: She is *captain*. [Subject-Linking Verb-Subject Complement]
2. predicate adjective  
   Example: She is *brilliant*. [Subject-Linking Verb-Subject Complement]

**Level III: Phrases**

*phrase:* a group of words that acts as a single part of speech and does not have a subject/predicate set  

1. Prepositional phrase: a phrase beginning with a preposition (used as an adjective or adverb)  
   Example: Put the book *on my desk*. (prepositional adverb phrase—tells where to put the book)  
   Example: The book on *my desk* is my favorite. (prepositional adjective phrase—tells which book)

2. Appositive: an interrupting definition  

3. Verbal: a verb form used as a noun, adjective, or adverb  
   Three kinds of verbally:
   a. gerund: an *-ing* verb used as a noun  
      Example: *Skating* is my favorite sport.
   b. participle: a verb form (ending in -ed, -en, -ing, etc.) used as an adjective  
      Example: The *swollen* river flooded its banks.
   c. infinitive: the *to-* form of the verb, used as a noun or modifier  
      Example: He loves *to read*.

**Level IV: Clauses**

*clause:* a group of words that has a subject/predicate set

Two Kinds of Clauses
1. Independent Clause (I): a clause that makes sense independently  
   Example: Ben was a soldier.
2. Dependent Clause (D): a clause that does not make sense unless it can "hang on to" (*de-*down; *pend-*hang) an independent clause.  
   Example: If Ben was a soldier . . .

Four Sentence Structures
1. Simple Sentence (I) one independent clause  
   Example: The hall is littered with papers.
2. Compound Sentence (I+I) two or more independent clauses  
   Example: The hall is littered with papers, but the classrooms are clean. [Punctuation: I,ccI]  
   Example: The hall is littered with papers; the classrooms are clean. [Punctuation: I;I]
3. Complex Sentence (ID or DI) an independent clause joined to a dependent clause  
   Example: The hall is littered with papers because students were in a hurry. [Punctuation: ID]  
   Example: Because students were in a hurry, the hall is littered with papers. [Punctuation: D,I]
4. Compound-Complex Sentence: (I+I+D or D+I+I, etc.) contains both compound clause structure and complex clause structure  
   Example: The hall is littered with papers now, but it was clean when the day began. (I,ccID)

Four Sentence Types:
1. declarative sentence: makes a statement (declares)  
   Example: It is a hot day.
2. interrogative sentence: asks a question (interrogates)  
   Example: Is it a hot day?
3. imperative sentence: makes a command or request  
   Example: Open the window.
4. exclamatory sentence: shows emotion (exclaims)  
   Example: What a hot day it is!