

The Magic Lens: Four-level Analysis



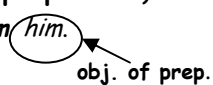
Grammar: a way of thinking about language

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*
 - o **Indefinite articles:** *a, an*

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 **Example:**  (Tells *How? When? Where? To what extent?*) (*Often ends in -ly*) 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 **Examples:** I hurried to class because I was late. (*sentence*)

Because I was late. (*fragment*)

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 EX: My teacher, *Mrs. McLeod*, lives in Seneca.

3. **Verbal:** a verb form used as a noun, adjective, or adverb

Three kinds of verbals:

a. **gerund:** an *-ing* verb used as a noun EX: *Skating* is my favorite sport.

b. **participle:** a verb form (ending in *-d, -ed, -en, -ing, etc.*) used as an adjective

EX: The *swollen* river flooded its banks.

c. **infinitive:** the *to-* form of the verb, used as a noun or modifier EX: 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 EX: 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. EX: If Ben was a soldier . . .

Four Sentence Structures

1. **Simple Sentence (I)** one independent clause EX: The hall is littered with papers.

2. **Compound Sentence (I+I)** two or more independent clauses

EX: The hall is littered with papers, but the classrooms are clean. [Punctuation: **I,ccI**]

EX: The hall is littered with papers; the classrooms are clean. [Punctuation: **I;I**]

3. **Complex Sentence (ID or D,I)** an independent clause joined to a dependent clause

EX: The hall is littered with papers because students were in a hurry. [Punctuation: **ID**]

EX: 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

EX: 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) EX: It is a hot day.

2. **interrogative sentence:** asks a question (interrogates) EX: Is it a hot day?

3. **imperative sentence:** makes a command or request EX: Open the window.

4. **exclamatory sentence:** shows emotion (exclaims) EX: What a hot day it is!