

Contemporary Grammar of English

Third Year 2020-2021

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First Semester

Week 2:

Lecture 3:

- **Element Realization Types**



Realizations of the Verb Phrase

The verb element is always a verb phrase. This may be *finite* (showing tense, mood, aspect and voice) or *non-finite* (not showing tense or mood but still capable of showing aspect and voice).

Whether finite or non-finite , the verb phrase can consist of one word, or of more than one word, in which case the verb phrase consists of a 'head verb' preceded by one or more 'auxiliary verbs' as it is indicated by the *Four Basic Verb Combinations Rules* below:

- A. Modal + inf. as in: We can do nothing.
- B. Perfect (have + p.p) as in: He had forgotten their wedding anniversary.
- C. Progressive (be+ v + ing) as in: The wind is growing stronger.
- D. Passive (be + p.p) as in: He was challenged rudely.



Realizations of the Subject

The subject is usually a **Noun Phrase**, at its simplest a pronoun such as **she, he, they...etc** or a proper noun such as **Tom, Julia...etc**. But a noun phrase may be an indeterminately long and complex having a noun as a head, preceded by other words such as an article, an adjective, or another noun, and followed by a prepositional phrase or by a relative clause; it is by no means uncommon to find all such items present in a noun phrase:

- **The new gas station in the city which was built last year by a very well-know company** failed to meet quality standards.

The subject may be a **Finite or Non-finite Clause** as in:

- **How the book will sell** depends on the reviewers.
- **To be neutral in this conflict** is out of question.

The subject may be a **Prepositional Phrase** as in:

- **In the mornings** is my favorite time.



Realizations of the Subject Complement

The subject complement may be realized by the same range of structures as the subject. But it has the additional possibility of being realized by adjectival phrases (having the adjective as the head word), as in:

1. **Noun phrase:** Paul is a student.
2. **Adjectival phrase:** The journey was quite pleasant.
The news was very disturbing.
The town appeared abandoned.
3. **Prepositional Phrase:** The furniture is in bad condition.
4. **Adverbial Phrase:** Our vacation is almost over.
5. **Non-finite clause:** My advice is to keep your mouth shut.
His job was tending a bar.
6. **Finite clause:** The trouble is that he has no money left.
The question is who will replace him.



Realizations of the Direct Object

The direct object is realized by:

1. **Noun phrase:** Our programmer is testing his new software.
2. **Finite clause:** He thought *that he had a perfect alibi*.
The officer described *what he saw*.
3. **Non-finite clause:** The dog wants to play in the garden.
Paul loves playing football.



Realizations of the Object Complement

The object complement refers to the DO in a similar way as the SC refers to the subject of a sentence. The headword in the VP of the sentence must be a complex transitive verb. The Object Complement(OC) is realized by:

1. **Noun Phrase**: They chose her the beauty Queen.
2. **Adjectival phrase**: I find them reliable.
3. **Prepositional phrase**: She found him in despair.
4. **Non-finite clause**: We found her sitting on the porch.
I heard my name called twice.
5. **Finite clause**: You may call it what you like.



Realizations of the Indirect Object

The indirect objects have fewer possibilities than subjects and their realizations are chiefly **noun phrases**, as in:

- He had given **the girl** a book.

The indirect object can rarely be realized by wh-nominal clause as in:

- The instructor will give **whoever turns in his assignment early** bonus points.

Unlike direct objects and subjects, they cannot be realized by **that-clauses**.



Realizations of the Adverbial

Adverbials can be realized by:

- 1. Adverb phrases**, having an adverb as a head, as in:
Peter was playing as WELL as he could.
They very OFTEN praised Tom.
- 2. Noun phrases**, as in:
Peter was playing LAST WEEK.
They praised Tom MANY TIMES.
- 3. Prepositional phrase** -that is, structure consisting of a noun phrase dominated by a preposition as a head, as in:
Peter was playing WITH GREAT SKILL.
They praised Tom FOR HIS GENEROSITY.
- 4. Finite clauses**, as in:
Peter was playing ALTHOUGH HE WAS VERY TIRED.
WHEN THEY SAW THE REPORT, they praised Tom.



Realizations of the Adverbial

5. **Non-finite clauses**, as in:

Peter was playing TO WIN.

MAKING A LOT OF NOISE they praised Tom.

IF URGED BY OUR FRIENDS, we'll stay.

6. **Verbless clauses**, as in:

GRATEFUL FOR HIS HELP, they praised Tom.

WHILE IN LONDON, we'll stay at a hotel.

