



University of Tikrit

College of Arts

English Department

Subject

"Oxford Practice Grammar"

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Unit one

Sentences

1 – Sentence:

A sentence is a set of words that are put together to mean something. A sentence is the basic unit of language that expresses a complete thought. It does this by following the grammatical basic rules of syntax. For example: "**Ali is walking.**"

A complete sentence has at least a subject and a main verb to show a complete thought. Short example: **She walks.**

A subject is a noun that is doing the main verb. The main verb is the verb that the subject is doing.

1–2 Types of sentences :

There are four types of sentences simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex

A. Simple Sentence: (one independent clause)

A simple sentence is a single clause with a subject and verb.

- The baby is sleeping.
- Someone shouted.

Also, a simple sentence can include auxiliary verbs (be, do, have, modals) as a part of the verb phrase and adverbial verbs.

- Tomorrow I will go to buy some cakes.
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B. Compound Sentence :(2 or more independent clause–main clause)

A compound sentence has two or more clauses. These clauses are joined together with conjunctions, punctuation, or both. In other words, A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (and, but, yet, for, or, nor, or so), a

conjunctive adverb (e.g. however, further, rather, therefore), or a semicolon (;).

- The girl bought an ice cream cone, but she dropped it in the park. (conjunction)
- The girl bought an ice cream cone; however, she dropped it in the park.
- The girl bought an ice cream cone; she dropped it in the park.

C. Complex sentence: (1 independent clause + 1 or more dependent clause)

A complex sentence is a sentence with one independent clause and at least one or more dependent clauses. It works best when you need to provide more information to explain or modify your sentence's main point. Complex sentences are easy to spot as they often use subordinating conjunctions (**because, since, until, before, that, which, etc.**) to connect clauses.

- John retired when he turned 65.

(when he turned 65 **is** adv. clause\ dependent clause)

- Because my pizza was cold, I put it in the microwave.
- Even though she already had breakfast, my dog was hungry.
- When the rain stopped, the children went outside to play.
- If you want to succeed, you have to work hard.
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D- Compound- complex sentence:

(2 or more independent clause + 1 or more dependent clause)

- Although the weather was bad, we decided to go hiking and we had a great time despite the rain.

2- Verbs :

Verbs are words that describe an action or talk about something that happens. They take many different forms depending on their subjects, the time they refer to, and other ideas we want to express.

- Children play in the field.
- I brought some bread.

2-1 types of verbs :

A-Action verbs: verbs are used to describe actions (what we do) and events (what happens).

- She walked to the door.
- He is jumping.

B-State verbs: describe a state rather than an action, they are used to describe states. They aren't usually used in the present continuous form (e.g. know, mean, understand, believe, appreciate, hate, like, love, feel, .. etc.).

- She really likes you.
- This coffee tastes delicious.

C- Linking Verbs: verbs that don't show action but describe the subject. While verbs like walk or jump represent an action, linking verbs like (be, appear, and seem) add more details to the subject.

- She seems awesome today
- He is a womanizer.

D– Model verbs: are used to express concepts such as permission, obligation, necessity, permission, ability ..etc. Model verbs are (will, can, must, may, should, and could)

- I must go or I'll be late for work.
- Can I leave now?

E– Auxiliary verbs : (be, do, have)

- What did you say?

3–1 Subject and verbs

The subject is usually the first noun or pronoun showing who or what is performing an action expressed by the verb.

- Smith lost his key.
- Her new classmates are friendly.

3–2 Forms of the subject :

The subject comes in many forms such as :

a. Gerund (v+ing)

A gerund is a verb form that functions as a noun. A gerund is created by adding the suffix "-ing" to the base form of a verb. Like all nouns, gerunds can be used as subjects, objects of verbs, objects of prepositions, or complements. For example:

- Visiting New York is always an experience
- Reading stories is her hobby.
- Studying always makes me sleepy.

b. An infinitive (to)

- To go without you wouldn't be any fun.

c. Clause :

- What he said wasn't polite.
- That person would win the election was never in doubt.

3-3 Subject-verb agreement :

Subject: is a person, place, thing, or idea that is doing or being something.

Verb: action performed by subject or state of being.

Ex: Tom plays cricket regularly.

- To make a sentence grammatically correct, a verb must agree with its subject in number.

Singular subject  singular verb

Plural subject  plural verb

(this is the most general rule **if the subject third person**– he, she, it)

- That child eats the banana.
 - This car goes fast.
- } Subject singular

- Those children eat bananas.
 - These cars go fast.
- } Subject plural

- When the subject is first person (I, we) or second person (you) the matter is different.
 - I read the newspaper every morning (subject singular but verb plural)

- We read the newspaper every morning (subject plural & verb plural)

3-2 Important rules of subject-verb agreement

Singular subject  singular verb

- Basketball rolls across the floor.

Plural subject  plural verb

- Basketballs roll across the floor.

Rule 1: two singular subjects connected by (and) require a plural verb.

- Gold and silver are precious metals. (الذهب والفضة معادن ثمينة)
- John and I are swimming.

- **But there is an exception to this rule**

When the noun refers to one idea to the mind or the same person or thing the verb should be singular (phrases describing some combination with 'and')

- Bread and butter is my favorite food.

Rule 2: two or more singular subjects joined by (or, nor) take singular verbs.

- Neither food nor water was found there.
- Either the cat or mouse has been there.

- If subject one is singular and subject 2 plural and they are connected by (nor, nor)

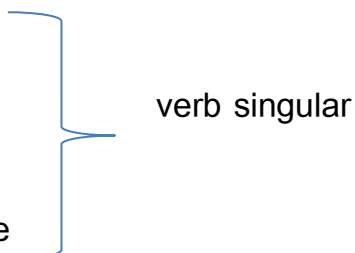
- Neither the chairman nor the directors are present.

Singular

plural

Rule 3: if the subject (either, neither, each, everyone, many) the verb should be singular.

Either
Neither
Each
Everyone



verb singular

- Every one of the boys loves the car
- Everyone wants these things, but no one wants to pay for them.

Rule 4: Some subjects (nouns ending with 's') plural in form but singular in meaning should take a singular verb.

Ex: (news; cards, measles, mathematics,)

- Mathematics is the branch of study in every school.
- The news is true.

Rule 5: Some subject (noun) is singular in form but plural in meaning and should take a plural verb. (**police, people...**)

- The police are trying to stop him.
- The couple are going out.

Rule 6: Use a collective noun in the sentence (group of people or things) such as (family, class, cards, enemy, government, staff, audience ...etc.) to take a singular verb.

- The family is going to the park.

Rule 7: Use of (Here\ There)in the sentence

Singular subject  singular verb

- There is a high hurdle to jump.

Plural subject  plural verb

- There are four hurdles to jump.
- Here are the keys.

Rule 8: Use of distance, period of time, sums of money, or describing an amount, take a singular verb.

- Fifty pounds is too much. (amount)
- Three miles was too far to walk. (distance)

Rule 9: with a prepositional phrase

- **None + of the + singular noun + singular verb**

- None of my stamp collection has lost its value.

- **None + of the + plural noun+ plural verb**

- None of my stamps collection have lost their value.

- **No + plural noun  plural verb**

- No men are hungry now.

Rule 10: Use of (**each \ every**) in a sentence (singular verb)

- Every woman and every man is kind in that family.


Rule 11: use of (**most, most of, all, all of, a lot of, some of**) use in two cases.

- **Countable noun**  **plural verb**

- Some of the girls are cute.
- Some bottles of water are filled.

- **Uncountable noun**  **plural verb**

- Some of the water is spilled.

Rule 12: use of suffix (body, think, one)  **singular verb**

- Somebody, nobody, everybody, anybody
- Everything, something, anything, nothing
- Everyone, no one, anyone, someone
 - Someone has stolen my bag.
 - Something is better than nothing.