



# Grammar Elements

**Grammar**  
is Greek for  
*letter*.  
Letters make  
languages.

**GRAMMAR**  
Grammar  
rules  
languages.

**ULES**

**Challenge**  
There are many  
rules and many  
exceptions to  
those rules.

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## Which Came First: Language or Grammar?

Language!

Humans spoke long before they wrote. So grammarians had the difficult task of assigning rules to languages *after the fact*. Not everything fit into neat little compartments.

But without rules, languages would evolve to the point of unintelligibility. Strict, old-school grammarians serve an important role by keeping languages from evolving haphazardly.

But languages do evolve, so grammar must evolve with them. All of this leads to those inevitable exceptions to the rules that cause so much debate and confusion.

## Key Terms

Noun  
Adjective  
Pronoun  
Verb  
Adverb  
Conjunction  
Preposition  
Interjection

Word  
Phrase  
Clause  
Sentence  
Paragraph

Subject  
Predicate  
Complement

# 8 Parts of Speech

Words are classed into eight categories according to how they are used in a sentence.

## Nouns Name

persons, places, animals, activities,  
events, ideas, and all sorts of things.

John, city, tree, cat, golf, liberty

## Adjectives Advertise

attributes of nouns:  
what kind, which one, how many...

big, good, full

## Pronouns Point

to nouns with alternate names.

he, she, it

## Verbs Verify

a noun's action or state of being.

walk, purred, is

## Adverbs Add

info to verbs, adjectives, or other  
adverbs: how, when, where, why....

quickly, loudly, here

## Conjunctions Conjoin

words, phrases, or clauses  
together like conjoined twins.

and, or, but

## Prepositions Position

items in time, location, manner....

with, for, at

## Interjections Ignite

messages with exclamations of emotion!

Gosh! Wow! Super!

Amazingly, only *eight* parts of speech are used to classify hundreds of thousands of words.

The challenge is that many words can be used for more than one part of speech.

Select yes on the ballot. (Noun)

Cast a yes vote. (Adjective)

He voted yes. (Adverb)

Yes! (Interjection)

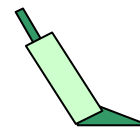
Additionally, phrases and clauses can act as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.



**NAP VAC PI**

After your NAP, VACuum the PI symbol.

Noun-Adjective-Pronoun   Verb-Adverb-Conjunction   Preposition-Interjection



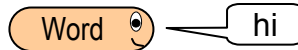
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# 5 Building Blocks

Word—Phrase—Clause—Sentence—Paragraph

## Word = Worm

A meaningful combination of letters.  
Imagine letters painted on a worm.



## Friend = Friends

Two or more related words.  
Imagine worm friends getting together.



Phrase?  
Clause?  
What's the  
difference?

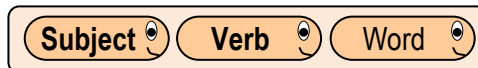


## Clan = Clause

Phrase with *subject* and *verb*.

Imagine worm friends forming a clan and choosing a leader (subject) to appear or perform actions (verb).

**C**ontains  
**L**  
**A**  
**U**  
**S**ubject  
**v**erb



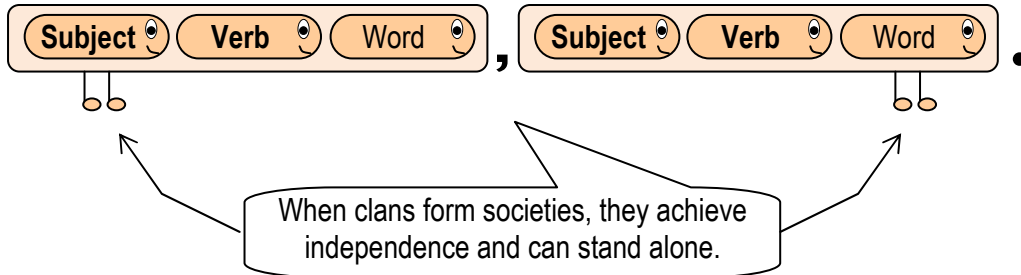
Clans need leaders

**Independent** clauses  
form complete thoughts  
and can stand alone.

**Dependent** clauses  
must join with  
independent clauses.

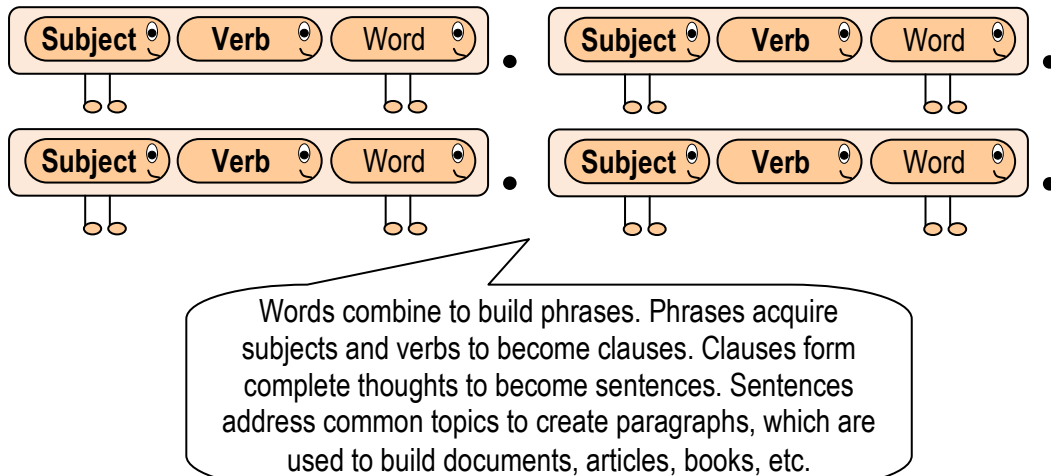
## Sentence = Society


Clause or clauses that form a complete thought and end with a punctuation mark (. ? !).  
Imagine a clan or clans forming into a unified society.

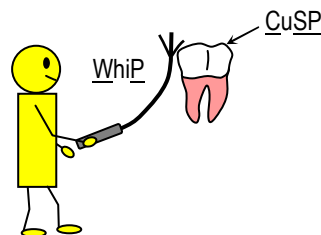


## Paragraph = Population

Sentences that combine to address a common topic.  
Imagine independent societies forming a common national population.



 **WP-CSP**  
To memorize the building blocks in order, imagine whipping the cusp of a tooth!

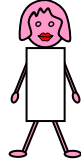


# 3 Sentence Parts

Subject – Predicate – Complement

## Subjects Star

*Subjects star in a sentence (like actors star in a movie scene).*



Mary is pretty.

Mary kisses John.

## Predicates Present

*Predicates present the Subject's action or state of being.*



Mary is pretty.

Mary kisses John.

## Complements Complete

*Complements complete the sentence by describing the Subject or the Object of its action.*

Mary is pretty.

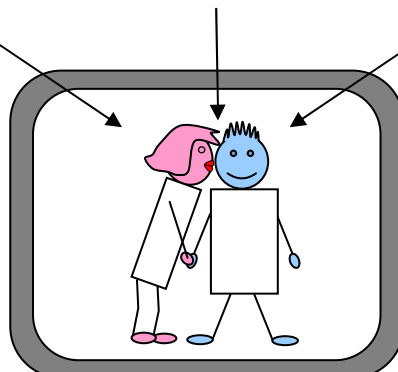
Mary kisses John.



Technically, the complement is part of the predicate.

### Sentence Scene

Subject                      Predicate                      Complement





# Your Turn!



## *Matching*

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1) ___ Adds to meaning of verb.          | a. Pronoun     |
| 2) ___ Joins words, phrases, or clauses. | b. Adjective   |
| 3) ___ Alternate name for a noun.        | c. Adverb      |
| 4) ___ Advertises features of a noun.    | d. Noun        |
| 5) ___ Names an item.                    | e. Conjunction |

## *True or False*

- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ A preposition positions an item in time, place, manner, etc.
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ A phrase has a subject and a verb.
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ A dependent clause forms an incomplete thought and cannot stand alone.
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ An interjection inserts a sentence into a paragraph.
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_ Building blocks follow this order: Word, Clause, Phrase, Sentence, Paragraph.

## *Fill in the blanks with S for Subject, P for Predicate, or C for Complement.*

- 11) The \_\_\_ of a sentence performs an action.
- 12) The \_\_\_ provides the action to perform.
- 13) A \_\_\_ can help describe the sentence part that performs.
- 14) A \_\_\_ can provide an object for the subject's action.
- 15) The complement is technically part of the \_\_\_.

Answers: 1c, 2e, 3a, 4b, 5d, 6T, 7F, 8T, 9F, 10F, 11S, 12P, 13C, 14C, 15P