

Lesson three: sentence structure

Introduction: every sentence has two important aspects: structure, function.

Understanding both of them helps us to form clear grammatically correct sentences.

Sentence structure (nature):

refers to the types of words (parts of speech) and how they arranged to form sentences.

1/ noun: names of a person, place thing or idea **example:** rock, mountain, geologist.

2/ articles: the/ a/ an; they limit the noun being referred in the sentence (a is used for general nouns, the is used for specific) articles generally function as determiners.

3/ verb: shows action or state of being for **example:** study, erode, exist.

verb "to be" (is, are, was, were) The verb "to be" can function as a linking verb connecting the subject to a complement.

Example: "The rock is sedimentary!" Here, "is" links the subject (rock) to the complement (sedimentary).

4/ adjective: describes a noun for **example:** large mountain, sedimentary rock.

5/ adverb: describes a verb, adjective, another adverb **example:** quickly eroded, very large.

6/ prepositions: shows the relationship between noun, pronoun, and another part of the sentence.

Eg: in the field/ on the table.

Examples of sentence structure: the geologist studied the sedimentary rock carefully.

Noun: geologist, rock.

Verb: studied.

Adjective: sedimentary.

Adverb: carefully.

Sentence function:

It refers to the role that each word on the phrase plays in a sentence.

1/ Key roles in Sentence function

1/ Subject: the doer of the action on what the sentence is about eg: the geologist studies rocks.

2/ Predicate: the part of the sentence that includes the verb and tells something about the subject the whole part of the sentence except of the subject emphasize that the verb is the core of the predicate, but

all related elements (like objects, complements, and modifiers) are also part of the predicate. This would ensure clarity when students identify the predicate in a sentence.

Example: In the sentence "The geologist studied the rocks carefully," the verb "studied" is the core of the predicate.

However, the entire phrase

"studied the rocks carefully" is the full predicate. The object ("the rocks") and modifier ("carefully") are both part of the predicate.

Example: the geologist studies rocks (studies rocks is the predicate).

Complement: gives more information about the subject or the object, it's important because it completes the sentence for example: the rock is sedimentary. The sentence cannot be completed without the complement while the modifier adds an extra information (adj; adv) it's unimportant for example the experienced geologist studies rocks carefully.

Eg : of sentence function: the geologist studied the sedimentary rock carefully.

Subject: the geologist.

Verb: studied.

Noun phrase functions as an object :

Sedimentary rock.

Modifier: adverb.