

LESSON NOTE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEK 2

SUBJECT: English Language
TOPIC: Grammar: Parts of a sentence (SVOAC)
CLASS: JS3
WEEK: 2

Introduction

A sentence can be defined as a group of words with a subject and a predicate which expresses action, state of the subject and makes complete meaning.

There are five parts of a sentence, namely: subject, verb, object, complement and adverb/adjunct.

1. Subject

This is the actor or performer of an action.

Features of a subject

- The subject can be a noun, pronoun, a noun phrase or a noun clause and it comes before the verb.

Examples

- a. Sarah (noun)
 - b. We (pronoun)
 - c. Her parents (noun phrase)
 - d. That he is obedient (noun clause)
- The subject must agree in number with the verb.

Examples

- a. Susan is
- b. Her parents love
- c. Peter sings
- d. They come

- The subject may be a gerund or gerundial phrase. (a gerund is a verb that acts like a noun, it always ends in -ing and is used as the subject or object of a sentence.)

Examples

- a. Smoking is dangerous.
 - b. Swimming is fun.
- The subject tells you who performs the action or who is something in a sentence.

Examples

- a. He loves mathematics.

- b. Our principal is very clever.
- c. The cat killed the rat.

2. Verb

The verb usually comes after the subject and it must agree in number (concord) with the subject. The verb shows what the subject does or what action is performed. We can have more than one verb in a sentence.

Examples

- a. Joy loves banana.
- b. He is not a monkey.
- c. Chioma must have been eating.
- d. Peter has finished his chores.

3. Object

The object may be a noun, pronoun, noun phrase or noun clause, it receives the action performed by the subject. It comes after the verb in a sentence

Examples

- a. A lion killed the goat.
- b. Many students trouble their teachers.
- c. Bola helped the girl.

4. Adverb

The adverb in a sentence answers the questions: when? Where? How? Why?

Note: A prepositional phrase can function as an adverb.

Examples

- a. He opened the box slowly.
- b. I often have cereals for breakfast.
- c. He left it on the table (a prepositional phrase functioning as an adverb.)

5. Complement

The complement is a word or group of words which completes the meaning of sentence. When the word refers to the subject, it is called subject complement and when it refers to the object, it is called object complement. The word helps to complete the meaning of an intransitive linking verb.

Examples of intransitive linking verbs are: is, am, are, be, was, were, been, seem, become, feel, look, smell, sound, taste, etc.

Examples of subject complement

- a. **Nneka (subject)** is my **cousin. (Complement)**
- b. **Many of the visitors** became **homesick.**

Examples of object complement

- a. The club elected **John(object)** the **president. (Complement)**
- b. The judge found **him guilty.**

HOMEWORK

Divide the following sentences into subject, verb, object and adverb

1. They lived in Lagos for years.
2. The students always read textbooks.
3. Mary sings melodiously.
4. Bola and Ade ate pawpaw yesterday.
5. I feel good.