

GRAMATIKA 3

03 – Clause elements

CLAUSE ELEMENTS: SUBJECT, OBJECT

- **Subject:** is the part of a sentence or clause that commonly indicates what it is about, or who or what performs the action.
- **Object:** is a noun (or pronoun) that is governed by a verb or a preposition. There are three kinds of object:
 - **Direct Object**
 - **Indirect Object**
 - **Object of a Preposition**

DIRECT AND INDIRECT OBJECT

- **Direct object** of a verb is the thing being acted upon (i.e., the receiver of the action).

Play the guitar.

Every actor played his part.

The crowd will cheer the President.

We can climb the hill and fly the kite.

- **Indirect object** of a sentence is the recipient of the direct object.

Paula passed her father the parcel.

Simon gave his uncle a dirty look.

Shall I tell the children our ghost story tonight?

PREPOSITIONAL OBJECT

- **Object of a preposition** is the noun or pronoun governed by a preposition. The object of a preposition is usually (but not always) the noun, pronoun (or the noun phrase) to the right of the preposition.

This is one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.

You cannot work with men who won't work with you.

Paula passed the money to her mother.

ADVERBIAL

- **Adverbial** is a word or a group of words that modifies or more closely defines the sentence or the verb.

Danny speaks fluently. (telling more about the verb)

Lorna ate breakfast yesterday morning. (telling when the verb's action occurred)

... manner (mode), place, time, frequency, concession, ...

COMPLEMENT

- **Complement** is the term used for a word or words that are needed to complete the meaning of an expression.
- **Subject complement** is the adjective, noun, or pronoun that follows a linking verb. (e.g. be, smell, seem, taste, look.). It tells us something about the subject. It completes the meaning.

Lee is weak.

John was a chicken.

- **Object complement** is the adjective, noun, or pronoun that follows a direct object to “rename” the direct object or state what it has become.

The vote made John's position untenable.

We voted John chairman.

STANDARD ORDER OF CLAUSE ELEMENTS

[He] [drinks] [a pint of lager] [hastily] [in front of the pub] [every evening].

S

V

O

AoM

AoP

AoT

Subject, Verb, Object, Adverbial of Manner, Adverbial of Place, Adverbial of Time

Only **S** and **V** are mandatory **clause elements** of any grammatical (simple) sentence.

Exercise: First, identify all phrases, then assign them individual clause element labels.

1. *My dislike of the man returned.*
2. *Taco is really a smart dog.*
3. *Some guy died at twenty of a heart attack.*
4. *Just give them hot chocolate.*
5. *The gallery became a reality in June.*
6. *He considered it a dumb question.*
7. *During her short life, her two sisters bought her a small teddy bear.*
8. *The Portuguese name the place Bom Bahia for its harbour.*
9. *She went crazy out in L.A. for a few months back in 1987.*