**SENTENCE ELEMENTS**

**1. DEFINITION:**

A sentence may alternatively be comprising five units called

elements of a sentence structure: Subject (S), Verb (V), Complement (C), Object (O), adverbial (A).

e.g.: She/ cleans/ the black board/ everyday.

S / V / O / A

I/ am/ a student

S/ V/ C

**1.1. Subject**: Is the word or words that represent the person or thing that is doing the action expressed by the verb (the doer).

**1.2. Verb**: What people and things do, and what happens to them.

**1.3. Object**: of a verb is the word or phrase which completes the structure begun by the verb. There are two types of objects:

*Direct object (OD)*: e.g. He / is eating / an apple.

S / V / OD

*Indirect object (OI* ): e.g. He / gave / the girl / an apple.

S / V / OI / OD

**1.4. Complement**: It provides additional information about either the subject or object of the verb. There are two types of complements.

*Subject complement* (Cs) when it is related to the subject

e.g. The girl / is / now / a student / at university.

S / V/ A/ CS / A

*Object complement* (C°): when it is related to the direct object of the sentence.

e.g. They / make / him / the chairman / every year.

S / V/ OD / C° / A

**1.5. Adverbial**: It is a simple adverb functioning on its own or a group of words of which the main word is an adverb. There are adverbs of manner, place, time …

**2. VERB PATTERNS**

**2.1. The verb pattern SV**: It consists of *subject + verb (intransitive)*

e.g. It / is raining.

S / V

**2.2.** **The verb pattern SVO**: It consists of **subject + verb (transitive)+object (direct)**

e.g. I / broke / the window.

S / V / OD

**2.3.** **The verb pattern SVOC**: It consists of *subject + verb (transitive) +object (direct) + complement (object).*

e.g. They / considered / the car / too expensive.

S / V / OD / CO

This verb pattern can often be expanded by a “to be” clause or

paraphrased by a “that clause”

e.g. They considered the car to be too expensive

They considered that the car was too expensive.

**2.4. The verb pattern SVOO**: it consists of *subject + verb (ditransitive)*

*+ object (indirect) + object (direct*).

e.g. I / gave / Ali / my book.

S / V / OI / OD

This construction can be replaced by:

*a) a direct object + to + noun phrase (NP)* with the following verbs: give, bring, grant, hand, offer, owe, read, promise, send, show, take, teach, write etc.

e.g. I / gave / my book / to / Ali

S/ V / OD / Prep / N.P

b) *a direct object+ for+ noun phrase (NP)* with the following verbs:

buy, cook, find, get, leave, make, order, peel, save, spare, etc. e.g. I / bought / a dress / for / my sister .

S/ V / OD / Prep/ NP

When both objects are pronouns, it is common to put the indirect

object ( 0I) last .

e.g. I / lend / them / to / her

S/ V / OD / prep/ NP

**NB:**

**- The verbs *strike* and *ask* have two objects and cannot be replaced by the preposition construction “to” or “for”.**

**e.g. He asked me a question. (not *he asked a question to/for me*)**

**- The verbs *explain*, *suggest* and *describe* take always the preposition “to” construction.**

**e.g. Can you suggest a good dentist to me? (not *can you suggest me a good dentist?*)**

**2.5. The verb pattern SVC**: It consists of *subject + verb +complement subject complement)*. The verb of this pattern is called a linking verb. There are two groups of linking verbs.

*a.* ***Current linking verbs/ verbs of appearance and sensation*** such as: appear, lie, remain, seem, stay (young), smell (sweet), sound, taste, look, feel.

e.g. You/ look/ nice.

S / V / Cs

We/ felt/ annoyed/ at their behaviour.

S/ V/ Cs / A

*b.* ***Resulting linking verbs/verbs of becoming*** such as:

be, become, grow(tired), fall (sick), run (wild), turn (sour), get(tired).

e.g. They/became/good friends.

S / V / Cs

She / soon/ got/ tired

S / A/ V/ Cs

**N.B.:**

**Some of the above linking verbs can also be ordinary verbs. Compare:**

**The driver/ turned / the corner / too quickly.**

**S/ V / OD / A**

**The weather / is turning / warmer.**

**S / V / Cs**

**2.6. The verb pattern SVA**: It consists of *subject + verb +adverb*. e.g. The house / is / nearby.

S / V / A

