Functions in the Sentence

Categories, Phrases, and Functions

- What is a grammatical category?
  - A word with little meaning, e.g., Determiner, Quantifier, Auxiliary, Coordinator, and Complementizer

- What is a lexical category?
  - A word with lexical meaning, such as a Noun, Verb, Adjective, Adverb, and Preposition

Categories, Phrases, and Functions

- Phrases and clauses have functions in the sentence.
- These are the main sentential functions:
  - Subject
  - Predicate
  - Complement
    - Direct object
    - Indirect object
    - Subject predicate (or subject complement)
    - Object predicate (or object complement)
  - Adverbal

Categories, Phrases, and Functions

- The name of the phrase that performs the function and the function itself must be kept separate.
  - You’re always giving, my therapist said.
  - [My therapist] is an NP functioning as the subject of the sentence.
  - You have to learn how to take.
  - [You] is an NP pronoun functioning as the subject of the sentence.
Whenever you meet a woman, the first thing you do is lend her your books.

- Identify Nouns, Verbs, Determiners, an Adjective, an Adverb.
- Identify phrases.
- Identify the subject, the predicate, a subject predicate, and an adverbial.

Whenever you meet a woman, the first thing you do is lend her your books.

- Nouns, Verbs, Determiners, an Adjective, and an Adverb.

[Whenever you meet a woman], [the first thing you do] [is lend her your books].

- Phrases.

[Whenever you meet a woman] is an adverbial.
[the first thing you do] is the subject.
[is lend her your books] is the predicate.
[lend her your books] is a subject predicate.

Three Diagnostic Tests for Subjects

1. Subjects invert in Yes/No questions
2. Subjects agree in number with the verb or the AUX.
3. Subjects are repeated in tag questions.

Three Diagnostic Tests for Subjects

1. Inversion in Yes/No questions
   - You think she’ll have to see you again in order to return them.
   - Do you think she’ll have to see you again in order to return them?
   - She doesn’t have the time to read them.
   - Doesn’t she have the time to read them?
Three Diagnostic Tests for Subjects

2. Agreement in number between the subject and verb/AUX
   - She’s afraid if she sees you again you’ll expect her to talk about them, and will want to lend her even more.
     - She’s afraid if she sees you again you’ll expect her to talk about them, and will want to lend her even more.
     - They are afraid if they see you again ...

Three Diagnostic Tests for Subjects

3. Tag questions
   - So she cancels the date.
     - So she cancels the date, doesn’t she?
   - You end up losing a lot of books.
     - You end up losing a lot of books, don’t you?
   - You should borrow hers.
     - You should borrow hers, shouldn’t you?

Pleonastic Subjects

- Pleonastic
  - Describes superfluous words
- There are whole blocks of New York where no one lives.

- Expletive
  - A word that carries no meaning but has a grammatical function in a sentence
- It started to rain a few minutes ago.

Lending Out Books

Hal Sirowitz

1. You’re always giving, my therapist said.
2. You have to learn how to take.
3. Whenever you meet a woman, the first thing you do is lend her your books.
4. You think she’ll have to see you again in order to return them.
5. But what happens is, she doesn’t have the time to read them and she’s afraid if she sees you again you’ll expect her to talk about them, and will want to lend her even more.
6. So she cancels the date.
7. You end up losing a lot of books.
8. You should borrow hers.

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Where are the Subjects?

1. This problem we will explain in Chapter 5.
2. Her father I like, but her mother I can’t stand.
3. Sitting a few feet away from Miss Campbell in Court 13 was Piers Morgan, her arch tormentor and Mirror editor.
4. Particularly interesting is the high percentage of unemployment in New England.
There are the Subjects!

1. This problem *we* will explain in Chapter 5.
2. Her father *I* like, but her mother *I* can’t stand.
3. Sitting a few feet away from Miss Campbell in Court 13 was Piers Morgan, her arch tormentor and Mirror editor.
4. Particularly interesting is the high percentage of unemployment in New England.

Direct Objects

- Direct objects are sisters to the verb and can be passivized.

I have eaten the plums that were in the ice box.

Direct Objects

- Passivization of direct objects.

The plums that were in the ice box have been eaten.

This Is Just To Say

William Carlos Williams

I have eaten the plums that were in the ice box.

and which you were probably saving for breakfast.

Forgive me they were delicious so sweet and so cold.

Subject Predicates

- The plums were ...
- They got ...
- I became ...
- I felt ...
- They looked ...
- They smelled ...
- They tasted ...
- They grew ...
Object Predicates

- Object predicates are often realized by an AdjP, an NP, or a PP.
- Object predicates modify the object of a sentence.

Where are the Object Predicates?

1. She painted the house purple.
2. Jenni considers *Pride and Prejudice* a classic.
3. She put dinner on the table.

There are the Object Predicates!

1. She painted the house **purple**.
   - An AdjP functioning as an object predicate.
2. Jenni considers *Pride and Prejudice* a **classic**.
   - An NP functioning as an object predicate.
3. She put dinner on the table.
   - A PP functioning as an object predicate.

This Is Just To Say
*Erica-Lynn Gambino*

I have just asked you to get out of my apartment

even though you never thought I would

Forgive me you were driving me insane

Object Predicates

- I consider Dave Cieslewicz ...
- I know ...
- They elected ...
- I keep ...
- He proved ...
- The people judged ...
- I reckon ...
- He drives ...
- They made ...

Indirect Objects

- Indirect objects are always realized by NP.
  - *I gave $25 to Ricky.*
- Indirect objects can be passivized.
  - *Ricky was given $25.*
- Indirect objects can be preceded by *to* or *for.*
  - *He sang a song for me.*
- Indirect objects can be moved.
  - *He sang me a song.*
Identify the Complements

1. They sold us the furniture.
2. Tom submits his tax-returns.
3. She seemed very happy.
4. He found it easy.
5. He took the early train.
6. The politician considered that argument valid.
7. That sounds terrible.

The Complements Identified

1. They sold [io:us] [do:the furniture].
2. Tom submits [do:his tax-returns].
3. She seemed [sc:very happy].
4. He found [do:it] [oc:easy].
5. He took [do:the early train].
6. The politician considered [do:that argument] [oc:valid].
7. That sounds [sc:terrible].

Six Categories of Verbs

1. Transitive verbs
   - select at least one object.
2. Intransitive verbs
   - do not select an object.
3. Ditransitive verbs
   - select a direct and an indirect object.
4. Monotransitive verbs
   - select only one object.
5. Complex transitive verbs
   - select an object and an object complement.
6. Copula verbs
   - select a subject complement.

Define and Give Examples of …

1. A transitive verb
2. An intransitive verb
3. A ditransitive verb
4. A monotransitive verb
5. A complex transitive verb
6. A copula verb