

Badji Mokhter University

Department of Arabic language

1st year license

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Grammar Points

Grammar teaches the law of language and the right way of using it in speaking and writing.

The English word grammar related only to the rules that govern significant forms of words and construction of sentences.

Before we go to the pattern of the English sentence, here is some basics that you need to know:

A word is the smallest meaningful unit. It is a combination of sounds. It is the basic unit of language. It is represented in written and spoken form of language. A word works as a symbol to refer to someone or something in the language to communicate a specific meaning.

A word could be classified according to its function and meaning, but it is challenging to define.

Example: love, literature, passion...

It can be : noun, verb, adjective, etc... in other words it can be any of part of speech (word classes).

Eg, university (n), to go (v), beautiful (adj)

A phrase is a group of words. It expresses a concept and is used as unit within a sentence. It is one of the most important elements in the English grammar. It covers everything a sentence has.

It has no verb and subject; it act to complete the sentence and making it meaningful.

Example: a tiny cat, a beautiful girl, on the table.....

A sentence contains a subject and predicate (verb), and it has a complete meaning.

sentence		
subject	predicate	
	verb	
You	Speak	English.

There is a subject and predicate and it convey a meaning" a complete thought".

P.s: predicate contains always a verb, but sometimes it is only a verb.

Sentence has four (04) kinds :

a/ A declarative sentence makes a statement. It ends with period (.).

e.g., It is raining. She loves reading books.

b/ A interrogative sentence asks a question. It ends with (?).

e.g., where have you been ? why is the sky blue?

c/ A exclamatory sentence shows a strong feeling such as surprise or anger.

It ends with an exclamation mark (!).

e.g., what a beautiful morning! The smart boy!

d/ An imperative sentence gives an order.

e.g. please leave. Speak up!

Ps. An imperative sentence can end with an exclamation point (!) if the order firm.

Directions n01: Read each group of words. Label each **sentence** or **not a sentence**.

Example A- David went to the park.

Answer- sentence

1. a small dog _____
2. the first day of the week _____
3. I love to swim. _____
4. I want to go to the park. _____
5. playing at the park _____
6. swimming in the pool _____
7. She hit the baseball. _____
8. My family wants a dog. _____
9. barking at the stranger _____
10. threw me the ball _____
11. I jumped on the couch _____

Directionsn02: Put each group of words together in a sentence.

Example A: park went to David

Answer: David went to the park.

1. was The game interesting-----
 2. under the tunnel sped The car-----
 3. John the baseball hit-----
 4. jumped on David the trampoline-----
 5. climbed the tree My friends and I-----
-

Answers : Directions n01

- 1/not sentence. 2/sentence.
3/sentence. 4/sentence. 5/not sentence.
6/not sentence. 7/sentence. 8/sentence. 9/not sentence.
10/sentence. 11/ sentence.

Directions n02: it is up to you.

The pattern of the English sentence

Sentence relationships define the functions of the 8 parts of speech (we can call them also "word classes") which are : nouns, verbs (including auxiliary verbs), adjectives, adverbs, articles, conjunctions, pronouns, and prepositions).

Parts of speech	Usage	Example
Noun	it names a person, a place or a thing	Mary is beautiful. Paris is the capital of France. Freedom is very important.
Pronoun	it is a word used instead of a noun	They are good students. The pencil is hers.
Adjective	it describes a noun	My father is tall but my mother is short.
Verb	it tells an action	Birds fly.
Adverb	it describes the adjective and / or verbs	The children always talk loudly.
Preposition	it tells the relationship between nouns / pronouns and other words in a sentence	My parents will meet me at the station tomorrow.
Conjunction	it joins sentences, clauses, phrases and single words	Jimmy opened the door and went in.
Exclamation	it tells sudden feeling or emotion	Hurrah! We won the football match.

The structure of the English sentence is SVO usually.

However, in the Arabic language, the structure of the sentence is VSO.

1/Subject/Predicate, Action Verb/Direct Object

Subject	Verb	Object
Paul	often eats	biscuits.
Mary	ate	two apples quickly.
My father and mother	are eating	mangoes now.
The fat girl	has eaten	a watermelon.
That little boy	will eat	some bread soon.

2/Subject/Predicate, Action Verb/Indirect Object/Direct Object

Subject	Verb	Indirect Object	Direct Object
I	gave	my sister	a birthday present.
My parents	always tell	me	stories.
We	have lent	him	some money.
They	are asking	the teacher	some questions.

3/Subject, Verb, Direct Object, Preposition, Indirect Object.

Subject	Verb	Direct Object	Preposition	Indirect Object
My friend	has sent	a letter	to	me.
His parents	bought	a computer	for	him.

Exercise 1 Rearrange the words in correct order to make complete sentences.

e.g. the fat cat / a mouse / is chasing.

The fat cat is chasing a mouse

1. That thin girl / is drinking / milk now
2. The robbers yesterday / the police / caught
3. Our teacher / like /we
4. My mother / my baby sister / is looking after
5. Has just written / a letter / the tall man
6. The students / have solved / some Mathematics problems
7. Her aunt tomorrow / will visit / Mary
8. Newspapers every day / my boss / reads
9. Enjoyed / the movie / the audience
10. The cook / some chocolate cakes / has made

Exercise 2 Rearrange the words in correct order to make complete sentences.

e.g. my sister / a birthday cake yesterday / me / baked

My sister baked me a birthday cake yesterday

1. The short man / has bought / some crayons from the stationery shop / his son
2. The policeman / has just shown / the driver / his driving license
3. The patient / gave / some medicine / the nurse
4. Brought / me / a bouquet of flowers last week / my uncle
5. The shopkeeper / the customer / is paying / two hundred dollars
6. He / his brother / the secret / has never told
7. A postcard from Japan / sent / her / her best friend
8. Did not lend / his new model car / the child / his classmate
9. Her mother / cooked / her / some congee
10. Has ever given / any help / the blind woman / no one in the street

Exercise 3 Rewrite each of the following sentences by placing the word in brackets before the indirect object.

e.g. My brother showed me his new wallet. (to)

My brother showed his new wallet to me.

1. The postman took her a letter yesterday. (to)
2. The dog owner gives his dog a bone every day. (to)
3. The students sent their teacher a present. (to)
4. The gardener handed me some flowers. (to)
5. My mother has already taken my father a cup of coffee. (to)
6. She found me a seat in the concert last Sunday. (for)
7. Betty has painted her best friend a beautiful picture. (for)
8. We bought our uncle a pair of gloves on his birthday. (for)
9. The tailor made the princess a new dress. (for)
10. Judy has baked me some chocolate cookies. (for)

Answers

Exercise 1

1. That thin girl is drinking milk now.
2. The police caught the robbers yesterday.
3. We like our teacher.
4. My mother is looking after my baby sister.
5. The tall man has just written a letter.
6. The students have solved some Mathematics problems.
7. Mary will visit her aunt tomorrow.
8. My boss reads newspapers every day.
9. The audience enjoyed the movie.
10. The cook has made some chocolate cakes.

Exercise 2

1. The short man has bought his son some crayons from the stationery shop.
2. The driver has just shown the policeman his driving license.
3. The nurse gave the patient some medicine.
4. My uncle brought me a bouquet of flowers last week.
5. The customer is paying the shopkeeper two hundred dollars.
6. He has never told his brother the secret.
7. Her best friend sent her a postcard from Japan.
8. The child did not lend his classmate his new model car.
9. Her mother cooked her some congee.
10. No one in the street has ever given the blind woman any help.

Exercise 3

1. The postman took a letter to her yesterday.
2. The dog owner gives a bone to his dog every day.

3. The students sent a present to their teacher.
4. The gardener handed some flowers to me.
5. My mother has already taken a cup of coffee to my father.
6. She found a seat for me in the concert last Sunday.
7. Betty has painted a beautiful picture for her best friend.
8. We bought a pair of gloves for our uncle on his birthday.
9. The tailor made a new dress for the princess.
10. Judy has baked some chocolate cookies for me.

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Word order in English

1/ the structure of English sentence

Mary likes her mother.

Subject=Mary

Verb = likes

Object = her mother.

Word order has a huge important in English as there is very little "case marking" a subject and an object have the same form (except for pronouns).

For example, the sentence "Mary loves her mother." does not have the same meaning, as "her mother likes Mary."

The Subject (the person who "likes") comes before the verb.

The Object (the person who receives the action of the verb) comes after the verb.

The simple sentence has this structure: Mary loves her mother.

Mary	loves	Her mother
subject	verb	object

We may add other expressions to the sentence, but we still have the same meaning and a complete thought.

Eg, We watched a movie at home last night.

We	watched	A movie	At home	Last night
Subject	Verb	object	Expression of place	Expression of time

Expression of time go at the end of sentence. We have expression of place before expression of time, but we never can have expression of place and expression of time between the verb and the noun. Expression of time can go at the end or at the beginning of the sentence.

It can go like this:

a/At the beginning” Last night, we watched a movie at home.”

b/At the end” we watched a movie at home last night.”

2/ Question:

When asking a question, we follow the order **auxiliary verb/modal auxiliary + subject + verb (ASV)**. Auxiliary verbs and modal auxiliaries share meaning or function, many which are forms of the verb “to be.” Auxiliary verbs can change form, but modal auxiliaries don’t.

Here’s a chart to help you:

Auxiliary Verbs		
Be	Do	Have
am is are was were being been	does do did	has have had having
Modal Auxiliaries (Never change form)		
can might ought to will	could may must	should shall would

As said, questions follow the form **ASV**; or, if they have an object, **ASVO**. Here are some examples:

Can he cook? “Can” (auxiliary) “he” (subject) “cook” (verb)

Does your dog like popcorn? “Does” (A) “your dog” (S) “like” (V) “popcorn” (O)

Are you burning the popcorn? “Are” (A) “you” (S) “burning” (V) “popcorn” (O)

Exercises

1/Arrange the words to make affirmative sentences.

- 1.to/ like/talk / I / you/ to/
2. bad/French / I / speak/extremely/really
3. hates/they/noise/ when/people/he/make
4. they/ night / song / a / sing/every
5. 8'o clock/sell / flowers / we/till/
- 6.anytime/ see / me / you / can/want/you
7. the/buy / milk / he/for / wants/to/baby
8. feed / you / my / cat / can
9. sister /has /my /got /a dog/ugly/dangerous
10. now/must / the book / read / you/carefully

2/Arrange the words to make affirmative sentences. Place time expressions at the end of the sentences.

1. go / now / home / will / I
2. give /the present /tomorrow /we /him / will
3. her / met / last night / at / we / the station
4. was / last week / he / in hospital
5. in /Greece / spend / I / will / next year / myholiday
6. must /at five o'clock / leave / we / the house
7. the library /take / I /the book /will /today /to
8. my mum / breakfast / in the morning /made
9. tonight / want / to the cinema / to go / we
10. wrote / last week / they / at school / a test

3/Arrange the words to make negative sentences. Place time expressions at the end of the sentences.

- 1.our holiday/will/at home/we/not/ spend/next year
2. did/I/him/see/not/last/nigh/at/disco/the
3. a/ going/ are/tonight/party/ not/to/we
4. will/a/ letter/week/ not/ next/send/ you/she
- 5.the/did/you/tell/he/not/this/truth/morning

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Articles

The words a, an, the called articles. Articles are classified into two categories, which are definite, and indefinite articles.

I/ Indefinite articles:

The words "a, an" are indefinite articles. They are used with singular nouns. It refers to any member of the group. We use "a" when the word starts with consonants.

Eg, I am reading a book. (It could be any book.)

We use "an" When the word starts with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u).

Eg, they sent us an invitation. (The invitation could be to any event. We so not know which one exactly.)

HOWEVER, there is a case where some vowels have consonant sound and a vowel sound.

a/ eg, Is there **a university** in your town ?

"**A university**" as you notice here in this example we used the article "a" not "an" because the most important thing here is not the written form of the word it is the sound the way we pronounce the word. In this example, we have the consonant sound /j/ university /,ju:nɪ'vɜ:(r)səti/.

And it's the same case with "uniform" /'ju:nɪfɔ:(r)m/ , "European" /,jʊərə'pi:ən/

Eg, do children at the school wear **a uniform**?

Eg, name **a european** country.

Some words start with **a silent h**, as such **an hour**, **an honour**. In this case, we use "an".

Eg, it has been such an honour to be part of this event.

Eg, she has just an hour to be ready.

Indefinite articles are used to indicate membership in a group. We use them before both jobs and occupations as in the following examples:

Eg I am a doctor.(a member of large group known as doctors.) She is a teacher. (a member of large group known as a teachers.)

We use indefinite articles before nationalities and religions.

Eg, Amani is a student. I am a teacher. Sofiane is a Muslim. He is an Algerian man.

ATTENTION !

We never use indefinite articles with:

1/ with plural nouns: books, shelves, departments...

2/ with before adjectives if they are not followed by nouns: She is smart (INCORRECT)

She is a smart lady. (CORRECT)

II/ Definite articles:

We use definite articles when we talk about a particular thing that already mentioned or something unique as the moon, the sun, the earth, the stars, the sky, the sea...

We use definite articles also with:

1/ Names of oceans, rivers, seas, mountains. Eg, the Alps, the Himalayas, the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, the Amazon, the Nile, the Thames, the Sahara Desert.

2/ Names of islands, countries, states: eg, the Canary Islands, The United States of America, the United Kingdom.

3/ Names of the musical instruments: eg, I can play the guitar, the piano, and the violin.

ATTENTION!

We never definite articles with following cases:

a/ Before proper nouns as Muhamed, Ahmed...

b/ Before languages, school subjects, meals, games, sports, and games, eg, breakfast, dinner, lunch, math, physics, history, football, basketball, Arabic , English, Korean....

c/ with plural of nouns when we refer to something in general such as, languages, writers, references...

d/ before these words university, school, prison, mosque, church...

Exercises

1/Exercise based on the opening text in *Thanks a Million*

Please complete the following exercise using *a/an/the/0* (no article) in the underlined spaces where appropriate. Change capital letters to lower case letters at the beginning of a sentence if necessary.

Ms Parrot, (1) ___ most famous lady detective of (2) ___ twenty-first century, was born in (3) ___ United Kingdom in (4) ___ 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including (5) ___ Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in (6) ___ northern hemisphere and (7) ___ southern hemisphere, as well as on (8) ___ equator. She has never been to (9) ___ Philippines or (10) ___ United States, but she speaks (11) English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, (12) ___ famous detective, she plays (13) ___ violin, and sometimes practises up to five times (14) ___ day. She is also (15) ___ only person in (16) ___ world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture [a long piece of music] in one breath on (17) ___ recorder.

She has been (18) ___ detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being (19) ___ detective is (20) ___ piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard

and it's not all fun and games. (21) ___ detective is someone who solves mysteries, and (22) ___ people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of (23) ___ cases she has solved, but quite (24) ___ few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to (25) ___ thousand dollars (26) ___ hour to help solve mysteries such as (27) ___ case of (28) ___ Australian owl in (29) ___ uniform. (30) ___ bird laid (31) ___ egg in (32) ___ European nest in less than (33) ___ hour after its arrival. What (34) ___ strange problem!
With great (35) ___ modesty, she has either declined such (36) ___ fee or donated (37) ___ money to (38) ___ poor, or to (39) ___ Grammar Survival Fund, believing that (40) ___ detective should use their skills for (41) ___ common good.

Correction of the exercise

Ms Parrot, (1) **the** most famous lady detective of (2) **the** twenty-first century, was born in (3) **the** United Kingdom in (4) **the** 1960s. Since then, she has been to many countries, including (5) **0** Portugal, Singapore and Australia, and has lived in (6) **the** northern hemisphere and (7) **the** southern hemisphere, as well as on (8) **the** equator. She has never been to (9) **the** Philippines or (10) **the** United States, but she speaks (11) **0** English, French and Portuguese. Like Sherlock Holmes, (12) **the** famous detective, she plays (13) **the** violin, and sometimes practises up to five times (14) **a** day. She is also (15) **the** only person in (16) **the** world to have performed Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture in one breath on (17) **the** recorder.
She has been (18) **a** detective for thirty years and claims that although many people think that being (19) **a** detective is (20) **a** piece of cake, detectives generally work very hard and it's not all fun and games. (21) **A** detective is someone who solves mysteries, and (22) **the** people who contact Ms Parrot have some very unusual problems. Little information is available about some of (23) **the** cases she has solved, but quite (24) **a** few of her most famous cases have attracted worldwide attention and she has been offered up to (25) **a** thousand dollars (26) **an** hour to help solve mysteries such as (27) **the** case of (28) **an** Australian owl in (29) **a** uniform. (30) **The** bird laid (31) **an** egg in (32) **a** European nest in less than (33) **an** hour after its arrival. What (34) **a** strange problem!
With great (35) **0** modesty, she has either declined such (36) **a** fee or donated (37) **the** money to (38) **the** poor, or to (39) **the** Grammar Survival Fund, believing that (40) **the** detective should use their skills for (41) **the** common good.

Nouns

A noun is a naming word. It is a name of a place, an animal, a person, an object, or a state of being. It is one of parts of speech.

a/Kinds of nouns

There are four (04) kinds of nouns:

1/ common nouns: words for places, people, things. It speaks in general about the noun.

Example: The student master graduated from university.

This book is my best friend.

2/ proper nouns: it is names of particular people, place, or things. They always begin with **capital letter**.

Example: Annaba is in the east of Algeria.

Julie lives in Manchester.

3/ collective nouns: it names a group or collection of persons or things and treated as one.

Example: I gave my mother **bunch** of flowers.

Family, committee, army, company, flock, public...

4/ countable nouns: nouns which can be counted are called countable nouns. It can be singular or plural.

Example: A boy, boys / student, students / university, universities / method, methods.

“s” at the end of the words indicates the plural.

5/ uncountable nouns: nouns that cannot be counted. They are neither singular nor plural.

They keep the same form in both singular or plural no “s” of the plural is required.

Example: do you like cheese?

I wish you the happiness of the world.

b/ plural and singular of nouns

As we mentioned previously, nouns can be singular or plural. “s” is the mark of plural.

We added at the end of the noun. However, they are different cases.

1/ Nouns that end in " **s, ss, ch, or x** "are made plural by adding "**es**".

Singular	Plural
Bus	Buses
Glass	Glasses
Branch	Branches
Sandwich	Sandwiches
Flash	Flashes
Box	Boxes

2/ Nouns that end in "**y**" are made plural by changing the **y** to **i** and adding **ies**. This condition is applied when a **consonant** precedes "**y**" as here in this example baby. As you notice in the table baby --- babies. The consonant "**b**" is before the "**y**" so we add "**ies**" to the noun.

Singular	Plural
Baby	Babies
Family	Families
City	Cities
Dictionary	Dictionaries

3/ Nouns that end in "**y**" but a vowel precedes "**y**" are made plural by adding "**s**".

Singular	Plural
Key	Keys
Day	Days
Donkey	Donkeys
Toy	Toys

4/ Some nouns change spelling from the singular to the plural. Observe these examples

Singular	Plural
Man	Men
Woman	Women
Child	Children
Mouse	Mice
Tooth	Teeth
Foot	Feet
Goose	Geese

5/ Some nouns that end in "o" are made by adding "s".

Singular	Plural
Video	Videos
Zoo	Zoos
Kangaroo	Kangaroos

P.s: Some words end in "o" are made plural by adding "es".

Singular	Plural
Tomato	Tomatoes
Potato	Potatoes
Hero	Heroes

6/ Some nouns are the same form in singular and the plural.

Singular	Plural
Sheep	Sheep
Deer	Deer
Fish	Fish
Salmon	Salmon

P.s: Some words are always in the plural form.

Singular	Plural
Glasses	Glasses
Pants	Pants
Jeans	Jeans
Tights	Tights

7/ some words end in "f" are made plural by adding "ves"

Singular	Plural
Half	Halves
Wolf	Wolves
Shelf	Shelves
Leaf	Leaves

8/ some words ends in “f” are made plural by adding “s”

Singular	Plural
Roof	Roofs
Chief	Chiefs

9/ some words end in “f” are made plural by adding “s” or “ves”.

Singular	Plural
Scarf	Scarfs / scarves
Hoof	Hoofs / hooves

10/ some words end in “fe” are made plural by chaning “f” to”v” and adding “s”.

Singular	Plural
Knife	Knives
Wife	Wives
Life	Lives
Midlife	Midlives

c/ Masculine and feminine nouns

1/Masculine nouns are for men, boys and male animals.

2/Feminine nouns are for women, girls, and feminine animals.

Singular	Plural
Actor	Actress
Brother	Sister
Prince	Princess
King	Queen
Father	Mother
Duke	Duchess

P.s: Some nouns are used for both female and male. These nouns are referred as **gender noun**. Eg, baby, bird, cat, cattle, child, companion, comrade, cousin, dancer, friend, deer.

d/ The possessive form of the noun

We add (’s) to the noun to show possession (the ownership). To indicate the possession we put apostrophe (’) after the noun and then s.

Example: 1/ We are having a party at **John's** house.

2/Michael drove his **friend's** car.

In the first example “We are having a party at **John's house” .Notice the possession in the sentence *Jong’s house* that means that the house belongs to John.*

** In the second sentence,“ his **friend's** car” it means that the car belong to Michael’s friend (friend of Michael).*

In the plural, for the nouns that end in “s” of the plural we add just the apostrophe (’) without “s”.

Example: 1/This is my **parents'** house.
2/Those are **ladies'** shoes.

For the nouns that do not end with “s” we add apostrophe ‘ and then “s”.

Example: 1/ The children’s room is so messy.
2/These are **men's** shoes.
3/**Women’s** clothes are very expensive.

P.s: When something belongs to two names, at the same time, and these names are linked with “and” that is to say that they both own it. Put the apostrophe at the end of the second name.

Example: **Ahmed** and **Laila’s** house is very big.

- In the following example, the house belongs to both Ahmed and Laila.

Exercises

Exercise 1: Pick out the nouns in the following sentences. There may be more than one noun in each sentence.

e.g. Terry told his friends many secrets.

Nouns: Terry, friends, secrets

1. His success made his parents happy.
2. Cows give us milk.
3. The train has just left the station.
4. Paris is the capital of France.
5. Our family spent the holiday in London.
6. Do you drink coffee with milk and sugar?
7. Lead is softer than iron.

8. What's more important, health or wealth?

9. A swarm of rabbits ran out of the forest.

10. My brother had a toothache last week.

Exercise02: Circle the nouns in the sentences.

1. I love red cars.

2. John and Mary went to the supermarket and bought eggs and cheese.

3. We had pizza for lunch.

4. They never told me that they had so much money.

5. She is writing an essay on democracy.

6. He had a brilliant idea.

7. The British Library is near King's Cross Station.

8. He has three brothers and ten nieces and nephews.

9. Could you pass the salt?

10. She travelled to Tokyo and Shanghai.

Exercise 03: Fill in the gaps with the plural nouns in English for the provided singular nouns in bold.

1. How many have you visited? **country**

2. I saw two on the way here. **wolf**

3. Where are my ? **key**

4. There are twenty-five short in this book. **story**

5. Buy me three kilos of , please. **kilo / potato**

6. I'd like two tooth-, please. **brush**

7. Have you got any against him? **proof**

8. Those are really nasty. **fly**

9. I can see nothing but and of . **roof / leaf / tree**

10. Try to put it all on these two . **shelf**

11. There are no in the woods. **cuckoo**

12. I will keep your . **watch**

13. Boys will be . **boy**
14. Many soldiers lost their during this war. **life**
15. I have got two . **Handkerchief**

Exercise 04 : Make these sentences plural:

- a. My friend is studying. **My friends are studying.**
- b. There is one box under the table. _____
- c. The child plays videogames. _____
- d. There is a big bus in the street. _____
- e. Take an orange ! _____
- f. She drives her car. _____
- g. Give me one blue card. _____

Exercise 05 Make these sentences singular.

- h. The babies are crying. **The baby is crying.**
- i. Those men drive new cars. _____
- j. There are some chairs in the office. _____
- k. Can you see any mice on the floor? _____
- l. I have three apples in my hands. _____
- m. They are lawyers. _____
- n. Can you see any witches in the picture? _____