





# Syntax: Introduction into Basic Notions


- 
- **1. Sentence as a basic unit of syntax**
  - **2. The expression of syntactic relations**
  - **3. The classification of sentences according to their structure**
  - **4. One-member sentences**





# 1. Sentence as a basic unit of syntax


- A sentence is a structural unity built in accordance with one of the patterns existing in a given language.
- All the sounds of a sentence are united by typical intonation. All the meanings are interlaced according to some pattern to make one communication.

- 
- A communication is a directed thought.  
Much in the same way as the position of a point or the direction of a line in space is fixed with the help of a system of coordinates, there exists a system of coordinates to fix the position or direction of a thought in speech.


- 
- The act of speech is the event with which all other events mentioned in the sentence are correlated in time. This correlation is fixed in English and other languages grammatically in the category of tense and lexically in such words as *now*, *yesterday*, *tomorrow*, etc.


- 
- The speaker is the person with whom other persons and things mentioned in the sentence are correlated. This correlation is fixed grammatically in the category of person of the verb and lexico-grammatically in such words as *I, you, he, she, it, they, student, river, etc.*

- 
- Reality is either accepted as the speaker sees it, or an attempt is made to change it, or some irreality is fancied. Compare: *The door is shut. Shut the door. If the door were shut ...* The attitude towards reality is fixed grammatically in the category of mood and lexically or lexico-grammatically in words like *must, may, probably, etc.*


- 
- The three relations – to the act of speech, to the speaker and to reality – can be summarized as the relation to the **situation of speech**.
  - The relation of the thought of a sentence to the situation of speech is called **predicativity**.
  - **Predicativity is an essential part of the content of the sentence.**




- 
- The **sentence** can thus be defined as a *communication unit made up of words (and word-morphemes) in conformity with their combinability, united by predicativity and intonation*

- 
- Within a sentence, the word or combination of words containing the meaning of predicativity may be called the **predication**, the grammatical employment of predicativity (предикація – граматичне втілення предикативності).




- 
- The main parts of the sentence (головні члени речення) are those whose function it is to make the predication. They are the subject and the predicate of the sentence.
  - The subject tells us whether the predication involves the speaker (*I, we ...*), his interlocutor (*you ...*) or some other person or thing (*he, John, the forest, ...*).

- 
- He is listening to music.
  - He was seen listening to music.
  - Mary saw Peter listening to music.

## 2. The expression of syntactic relations


- Within grammar pairs the most widespread types of syntactic means in Ukrainian are:
- **agreement** (узгодження), for example:  
*наступного дня, усім трьом, на першому поверсі;*
- **government** (керування), for example:  
*корисний усім, усіх розважав, усміхнувся від задоволення; and*
- **adjoining** (прилягання), for example:  
*досконало перевірити, його задум, рушив услід.*


- 
- For the English language of great importance is the **word order**. The word order is crucial for differentiating the subject and the predicate, the subject and the object etc. Such a heavy grammatical load of the word order leads to the idea that its possibilities to be used not for grammar purposes are very limited ones.


### 3. The classification of sentences as to their structure

- Sentences with only one predication are called **simple** sentences.
- Those with more than one predication have usually the name of **composite** sentences.
- In a composite sentence each predication together with the words attached is called a **clause**.



- 
- Composite sentences with coordinated clauses are **compound** sentences, e.g.: *She is a very faithful creature and I trust her.*
  - Composite sentences containing subordinated clauses are **complex** sentences, e.g.: *If I let this chance slip, I am a fool.*
  - In a complex sentence we distinguish the principal clause (*I am a fool*) and the subordinate clause (*If I let this chance slip*) or clauses.

- 
- The clauses of a composite sentence may be joined with the help of connective words (**syndetically**) or directly, without connectives (**asyndetically**).
  - A simple sentence or a clause containing some words besides the predication is called **extended**. An **unextended** sentence (clause) contains no other parts but the subject and the predicate.

- 
- A sentence (clause) with several subjects to one predicate or several predicates to one subject is called a **contracted** one (скорочений, стягнений).
  - The dominating type of sentence (clause), with full predication, i.e. containing both the subject and the predicate, is called a **two-member** sentence (clause). All other types are usually called **one-member** sentences (clauses).

## 4. One-member sentences (односкладні речення)

- Common for both languages are the following types of one-member sentences:
- 1) Nominative sentences (називні), e.g.: *Thomas, Sir. A man of facts and calculations. Вечір. Ніч.*
- 2) Imperative sentences (наказові), e.g.: *Come here at once. Іди сюди негайно.*
- 3) Infinitive sentences (інфінітивні), e.g.: *To be lonely and to grow older and older.* Especially widespread is this kind of sentences in Ukrainian where the infinitive by its function in the sentence has become similar to the personal form of the verb. E.g.: *Що робити? За людьми їти ... Оце й робити!*

## ■ Two-member sentences

- 1) Impersonal sentences (безособові): *Сутеніє. It is getting dark.*
- 2) Indefinite-personal sentences (неозначено-особові): *Кажуть, що його немає. They say he is out.*
- 3) Generalizing-personal (узагальнено-особові): *Дарованим конем не наїздишся. You mustn't change horses in the mid-stream.*
- 4) Sentences with unchangeable predicate-words (речення з незмінними присудковими словами): *можна, шкода, треба, слід та ін.: Треба йти додому. It is necessary to go home (I must go home).*

- 5) Sentences with adverbs of the type (речення з прислівниками): *Йому весело зараз. He is rather jolly now.*
- 6) Sentences with unchangeable verbal predicate forms in -но, -то (речення з незмінними дієслівними присудковими формами на **-но, -то**): *Під білими березами козаченька вбито. Under white birches a Cossack was killed.*
- 7) Different types of sentences with the subject which is not named or is avoided to be named (різні типи речень з усуненим або не названим підметом): *І більше його там не бачили. And he wasn't seen there any more. Каже, приходь. They say, you can come.*

# THE SENTENCE /structure/

## SIMPLE

### ONE-MEMBER

has only one principal part which neither the subject nor the predicate but it makes the sense complete  
*An old park. Dusk – of a summer night.*

### NOMINAL

when the principal part is expressed by a noun  
*Low tide, dusty water.*

### VERBAL

when the principal part is expressed by verbals: an infinitive or a gerund  
*To think of that!*  
*Living at the mercy of a woman!*

### TWO-MEMBER

has two principal parts – a subject and a predicate  
*Fleur had established immediate contact with an architect.*

### COMPLETE

has a subject and a predicate  
*Young Jolyon could not help smiling.*

### INCOMPLETE

when one of the principal parts or both of them are missing, but can be easily restored from the context.  
*Where were you yesterday?*  
*At the cinema.*

## COMPOSITE

### COMPLEX

(see Unit 19)

### COMPOUND

(see Unit 19)

**Simple sentences**, both two-member and one-member, can be:

- **extended**
- **unextended**

An **unextended** sentence consists only of the primary or principal parts.

*She is a student. Birds fly. Winter!*

An **extended** sentence consists of the subject, the predicate and one or more secondary parts (objects, attributes, or adverbial modifiers)

*She is always happy with you.*

# THE SENTENCE /communicative types/

**DECLARATIVE**

**AFFIRMATIVE / POSITIVE**

*I like English. I study English.*

**NEGATIVE**

*I don't think so. He is not sure about the case.*

**INTERROGATIVE**

**GENERAL** *Do you like English? Are you fond of English?*

**SPECIAL** *What is the weather like today? Is it windy?*

**ALTERNATIVE** *Are you a teacher or a doctor?*

**DISJUNCTIVE** *You like English, don't you?*

**SUGGESTIVE** *You know this?*

**RHETORICAL** *To be or not to be?*

**IMPERATIVE**

*Open the door, please! Go!*

**EXCLAMATORY**

*What a wonderful day!*



# The subject

- the independent member of a two-member predication, containing the person component of predicativity;
- defined as a word or a group of words denoting the thing we speak about;
- can be a word, a syntactical word-morpheme (in English – *there, it*) or a complex .



- *he sleeps*

## THE SUBJECT /structure/

### **SIMPLE**

expressed by a single  
word form

*The sun is bright.*

### **PHRASAL**

expressed by a phrase

*To do it again was  
easy.*

### **COMPLEX**

expressed by a  
predicative  
construction\*

*It is important for us  
to come early.*

### **CLAUSAL**

expressed by a clause

*What we are to talk  
about is a problem to  
me.*

# THE SUBJECT /grammatical types/

## NOTIONAL

denotes or points out a person or non-person

### PERSONAL MEANING

#### DEFINITE

expressed by nouns, noun-pronouns,  
cardinal & ordinal numerals,  
infinitives, gerunds, non-predicative  
phrases

*Crying will do you no good.*

#### INDEFINITE

**/THEY/**

denotes an indefinite group of persons  
excluding the speaker

*They say, ...*

#### GENERALIZED

**/ONE, WE, YOU/**

denotes all people including the  
speaker

*One has one's dignity.*

### DEMONSTRATIVE MEANING

## FORMAL

### IMPERSONAL

**it** denotes various states of nature, things,  
time, distance, measurement (the idea is  
in the Predicate)

*It's snowing. It turned out to be right.*

### EMPHATIC

*It is/was N/Pr who ...*

*It was he who had to close the door.*

*It is you who is always late.*

*It was you who has fallen.*

### INTRODUCTORY / IT, THERE/

introduces the notional subject, expressed  
by an infinitive, gerund, infinitive (**it**) or  
gerund phrase, predicative construction,  
clause

*It is important to study English. = To  
study English is important (these  
sentences can be transformed)*

*There was silence for a moment.*

*First, there is what we might call a  
pattern.*

**SIMPLE**

**THE PREDICATE**

**COMPOUND**

(compound nominal; 2 actions)

**DOUBLE**

*The moon was shining(1) cold and bright(2).*

*to die, to leave, to lie, to marry, to return,*

*to rise, to sit, to stand, to shine etc.*

*My daughter sat(1) silent(2).*

*She married(1) young(2).*

**OF MIXED STRUCTURE**

**VERBAL PROPER**

(a V in a synthetic or analytical form)

*He speaks English.*

**PHRASEOLOGICAL**

(a phraseological equivalent of a V denoting one action)

*to give a book,*

*to pay a visit*

*He takes care of his granny.*

**NOMINAL**

**[link V]+[Predicative(Prv)]-a nominal**

part:N/Adj/Num/PrN/Adv/I/G]

*He was a captain.*

*It is getting dark.*

*We were five in the class.*

*It was he.*

*Everybody is in.*

*His first thought was to run.*

*Her job was cleaning it all in time.*

**VERBAL**

**[Finite form]+[Verbal/Adj]**

**MODAL**

**modal part+I/G**

1) modal V

*He had*

*to go.*

2) modal expression

(*to be able, to be allowed, to be willing, to be anxious, to be capable, to be going to etc.*)

*She was allowed to leave.*

3) both

*He must be willing to go.*

**ASPECT**

**phasal V+I/G**

1)(beginning: *to begin, to start, to commence, to set about, to take to, to fall to, to come*)

*She started singing.*

2)(duration: *to go on, to keep, to proceed, to continue*)

*She kept singing.*

3)(repetition: *would, used*)

*She used to sing every evening.*

4)(cessation: *to stop, to give up, to finish. to leave off, to cease*)

*She gave up singing.*

**OF DOUBLE ORIENTATION**

**2 parts: attitude of speaker+action**

*The plane is reported to have been lost.*

1)intransitive V of seeming or chancing: *to seem, to appear, to prove, to happen, to chance etc.*

*He seemed to understand.*

2)passive verbs (some)

•(saying: *to say, to declare, to state, to report, to rumour*)

•(mental activity: *to believe, to consider, to expect, to find, to know, to mean, to presume, to regard, to suppose, to think, to understand*)

•(perception: *to feel, to hear, to see, to watch*)

3)phrases with modal meaning: *to be sure, to be likely, to be certain etc.*

*He is likely to come.*

**MODAL NOMINAL**

**modalV+linkV+Prv**

*Jane must feel better pleased than ever.*

*She could not be happy.*

**MODAL ASPECT**

**modalV+phasalV+I/G**

*You ought to stop doing that.*

*He can't continue training.*

**ASPECT/PHASAL NOMINAL**

**V+linkV+ Prv**

*He was beginning to look desperate.*

*George began to be rather ashamed.*

**OF DOUBLE ORIENTATION**

*Mrs. Bacon is said to be very ill.*

*Walter seems to be unhappy.*



# The predicate

## The simple predicate

- the member of a predication containing the mood and tense (or only mood) components of predicativity;
- can be a word or a syntactical word-morpheme (in English – *does*, *will*).

# The compound nominal predicate (складений іменний присудок).

- The peculiarity of all eastern-Slavonic languages, including Ukrainian, is the fact that they mostly do not use the linking verb *бути* in the present tense: *Скромність – його характерна риса*. In English the linking verb *be* is never omitted since it is caused by the necessity to finish the sentence structurally.

# The compound verbal predicate (складений дієслівний присудок).

- Modal, formed by combining of the modal verbs with the infinitive: *We can speak English. Ми можемо відпочити.*
- Aspect, in which the auxiliary part points towards the beginning, end, continuation, repetition or becoming of some action performed by the subject: *She began singing. Сонце почало підніматися.*
- Nominal-verbal modal predicate, in which the infinitive is attached to the compound nominal predicate, the nominal part of which is expressed by adjective or participle and points towards relation to the action expressed by the infinitive: *I am obliged to do my best. Необхідно рушати вперед*



# The object

- 1) according to the type of connection with a verb or some other governing word – prepositional object and non-prepositional object (прийменниковий та безприйменниковий додатки);
- 2) according to the grammatical meaning – direct and indirect objects (прямий та непрямий додатки).

## THE OBJECT /structure/

### **SIMPLE**

expressed by a single  
w-form or by a w-form  
preceded by a formal  
word  
*I don't know this.*

### **PHRASAL**

expressed by a phrase  
*I've brought a lot of  
news.*  
*When did you talk to  
Miss Mary Smith?*

### **COMPLEX**

expressed by a  
predicative complex\*  
*Nobody knew of his  
being absent from town.*

### **CLAUSAL**

expressed by a clause  
*He was amazed by  
what he saw there.*

# THE OBJECT /grammatical types/

## NOTIONAL

### DIRECT

non-prepositional, follows **Vtr, Adj, St** and completes their meaning

*I wrote a poem.*  
*Who saw him leave?*

### COGNATE

non-prepositional, attached to **Vintr**; expressed by a **N** semantically related to the root of this **V**

*He smiled the smile of joy.*

### INDIRECT

follows **V, Adj, St**

### NON-RECIPIENT

attached to **Vintr, Adj, St** by means of a preposition  
*One must always hope for the best.*

### RECIPIENT

attached only to **Vtr** either without a preposition or by the prepositions **to/for**

### PREPOSITIONAL

*He gave this book to Mary.*

### NON-PREPOSITIONAL

*He gave the boy two dollars.*

## FORMAL /IT/

### EMPTY

with no meaning

*An hour late we made it up.*

### INTRODUCTORY

### DIRECT

after: to take, to understand, etc  
*I understand it that you are ready.*

### NON-DIRECT

after: to count on, to depend on, to insist on, to object to  
*Mary objected to it that the children should be taken with them.*

# The attribute

- In Ukrainian there are distinguished two types of attributes – agreed and non-agreed (узгоджені та неузгоджені означення).
- English is not agreed with a word it modifies (the only exception are the attributes expressed with the help of demonstrative pronouns *this* and *that*, which are agreed with the word they modify in number, compare: *this book* – *these books*).

## THE ATTRIBUTE

### HEADWORD

a noun, a pronoun, or any other part of speech that has a nominal character  
*I like that red car as well as this black one.*

### ITS POSITION to the headword

#### PREPOSITION

*What is he doing in this small dirty flat?*

#### POSTPOSITION

*A voice inside said that it was a man I  
saw yesterday.*

### CLOSENESS with the headword

#### DETACHED

*Tired after a happy day, we came home.*

#### NON-DETACHED

*Peter is a born painter.  
Overcome the difficulty of doing it!*

### STRUCTURAL CLASSIFICATION

#### SIMPLE

*Most of the people  
dancing were  
women.*

#### PHRASAL

*My mother and  
father's room is  
upstairs.*

#### COMPLEX

*There's no need for  
you to leave so  
early.*

#### CLAUSAL

*A man who won a million  
dollars yesterday is my  
neighbour.*

## THE APPOSITION

**HEADWORD:** a noun, a nominal phrase or sometimes a clause  
*Beyond the villa, a strange looking building, began the forest. I admire her, a very pretty creature.*

### ITS POSITION to the headword

#### PREPOSITION

*Doctor Smith was known to everyone.*

#### POSTPOSITION

*Mr. Smith, the local doctor, was known to everyone.*

### CLOSENESS with the headword

#### DETACHED/LOOSE

*Dr. Smith, my predecessor, was there.*

#### NON-DETACHED/CLOSE

*Sir Peter was upset. Mount Everest is the highest.  
Overcome the difficulty of doing it!*

# The adverbial modifier

- place (місця),
- time (часу),
- manner (способу дії),
- measure and degree (ступеня й міри),
- reason (причини),
- purpose (мети),
- result (наслідку),
- condition (умови),
- concession (допусту).
- attending circumstances (in English) обставина супровідних умов)).

# THE ADVERBIAL MODIFIER

## HEADWORD:

- the predicate verb: *John spoke in a whisper.*
- the predicate group: *He read the poem aloud.*
- the whole sentence: *In the evening the gathered again.*

## OBLIGATORY

the sentence structure demands it or its absence changes the meaning of the V (after: to behave, to act, to treat; to live, to dwell, to wait, to last, to weigh; to put, to take, to send; to come, to go, to arrive, to return, to step, to sit, to lie, to stand)  
*Bred went to the library. He behaved bravely. John lives in London. Put the book into the bag.*

## NON-OBLIGATORY

*He arrived early by car.*

## STRUCTURAL TYPE

**SIMPLE:** *We started early.*

**PHRASAL:** *We started at 5 in the morning.*

**COMPLEX:** *John sat with his elbows on the table.*

**CLAUSAL:** *When the cat is away, the mice will play.*

## SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION

### QUALITATIVE

#### MANNER

(how? in what way? by what means?) *She dances badly, but energetically. She walked fast.*

#### COMPARISON

than, as, as if, though; like  
*A mountain is higher than a hill.*

#### DEGREE

(how much? to what extent?)  
*The story is extremely long.*

#### MEASURE

(length, time, weight, money, t°)  
*He walked 5 miles. The t° went down 10 degrees.*

### QUANTITATIVE

**TIME** *The meal over, they went into the library.*

**PLACE** *We live nearby, 3 miles away.*

**CONDITION** in what case? *But for you I wouldn't do it.*

**CONCESSION** in spite of what? *With all his faults, I like him.*

**RESULT** +too, enough ... *It is too cold to go out.*

**PURPOSE** what for? *He came to help us.*

### CIRCUMSTANTIAL

**EXCEPTION** but, except, save, but for, apart from, aside from, with the exclusion of *Everybody was present except me.*

**CAUSE/REASON** why? for what reason? *She couldn't come because of her illness.*

**ATTENDANT CIRCUMSTANCES** *He came to Paris to die.*



# Complex parts of the sentence

- 1) Complex Object (with the Infinitive, Participle I, Participle II, Gerund, non-Verbal), e.g.:
  - *She wants him to study better.*
- 2) Complex Subject (with the Infinitive, Participle I, Participle II, non-Verbal), e.g.:
  - *The delegation was reported to have already arrived.*
- 3) For-to-Infinitive Construction, e.g.:
  - *For you to do this is of the utmost importance.*
- 4) Absolute Constructions/Prepositional Constructions (with Participle I, Participle II, Infinitive, non-Verbal), e.g.:
  - *She was staring at him, her hands trembling with fear.*
- 5) Gerundial Predicative Construction, e.g.:
  - *He was aware of her being constantly late for her job.*