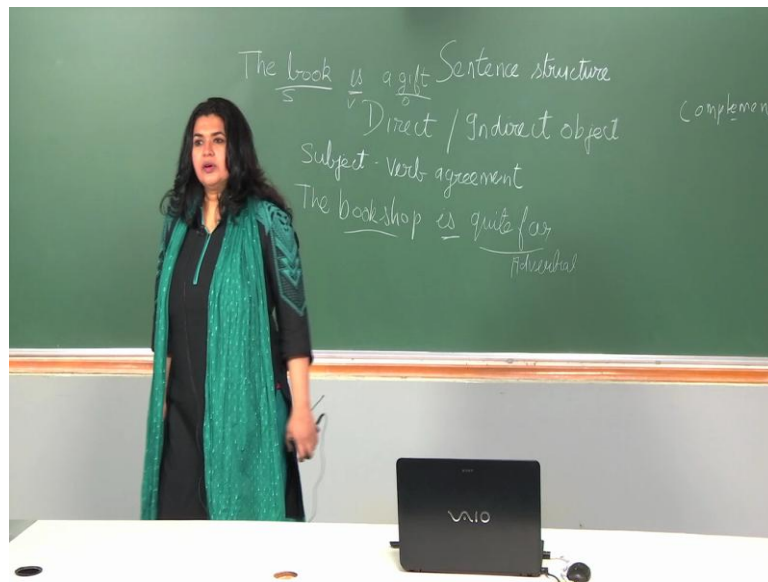


Technical English for Engineers
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Lecture - 06
What is a Sentence

Good morning. So, today's class is all about Sentence structure.

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We will be looking at what are the parts of a common sentence and we are generally talking about kind of English you use in your day today life, we are not still talking about literary kind of language. So, we must bear in remind is that this class is all about English for a Technical Communication or English for Engineers. We are basically or essentially talking about that level of English. So, English in our academic life, English for those who are into technical kind of writing, class room writing, assignments, they have to follow certain rules in everyday communication and we have to know, what is sentence and how a sentence is commonly generally structured.

We will also learn something about direct indirect object and we will revise subject work agreement, I am sure these are the things you already know but we need to revise it for

the sake of this course. The various classes of words, we have already seen there are various classes of words are used to construct or create sentences. We have already seen what are those classes? Now, sentences have 5 parts: Subject, Verb, Object, Complement and Adverbial. Please note this is the very commonly misspelt word, we are talking about complement with an e. When we say, this is a beautiful flower then this is compliment with an i or this is beautiful dress, this is a compliment we obtain, but here complement is something that supports something that goes with something else.

There are 5 parts in a sentence subject, verb, object, complement and adverbial. All English language sentences have a subject and a verb that is the minimum that you need. Of course, you can even make with a verb like 'sit' that is an order, 'eat' that is an order, but generally we say I am writing, I am speaking, I talk, I went, I saw, so minimum components of a sentence and that is subject and a verb. Now, there are 5 main structures, which are used to make simple sentences in English. Now, the subject and object can be a noun, pronoun or a noun phrase. You already are familiar with what are nouns, pronouns and noun phrases. Verb as you know is an action word and the complement can be either an adjective or a noun phrase. Adverbial can be a prepositional phrase or an adverb.

Now let us look at the subject verb construction, is a simple sentence and with just one subject and a verb I walked, I drove, so here you have one subject 'I' and you have a verb 'drove' or 'walked'. She saw, 'she' is a pronoun and 'saw' is the verb. She sings; pronoun and verb. So, this is the simplest form of a sentence subject, verb. Let us look at a noun phrase also, the tyres came off. Now, 'the tyres' noun phrase, 'came off' is a verb, so here we are talking about what subject and verb combination.

Now, let us look at Subject, Verb and Object and then we will move on to what is Direct Object and what is Indirect Object. These things are important how you place words in a sentence. Very often students get confused about the order of words in a sentences, they do not know where to place what word so these things are necessary to understand. Now, Subject, Verb, Object; SVO is the most common and basic structure, which is used in every day English. So, I need a break. 'I' is a subject, 'need' is a verb, object 'a break'.

They are foreigners. 'They' subject, 'are' verb and 'foreigners' who are they, foreigners so object.

Look at this, 'The book' what is it, 'book' your subject, 'is' what? is it, is your verb. Now, you may choose to write whatever you want as an object, the book is what? You can say, 'let us begin within instead of saying' the book is very interesting or boring or let us say the book is a gift, for example. So what is the book object, 'a gift' becomes your object. So, the book is a gift. Now, Subject Verb Complement this is another structure SVC. My house is an old one. 'My house' is subject, 'is' is a verb, 'an old one', so 'this is a complement. It defines it qualifies your house. They are 'quarrelsome', my neighbours are 'quarrelsome'. 'My neighbours' subject, 'are' verb, what kind of neighbours are those 'quarrelsome', it is a complement. It tells you something about your qualities of 'your' neighbours.

Now, let us look at another structure that is Subject Verb Adverbial. The 'bookshop' is quite far. Now, remember what are adverbs? Here, adverb suggests a sense of place so this is your verb, 'The 'bookshop'' of course is a subject and quite far, a quite near, a quite close, it becomes your adverbial. Please note the spelling. This suggests the water is boiling hot. So, you know degree of water and it is heat, it becomes another kind of an adverbial. We will talk about Direct, Indirect objects. So, consider for example a sentence such as, my father gifted me a book. 'My father', he is the doer right so subject is always the doer 'gifted' of course is verb. Now, what is the object here? Me or the book, my father gifted me a book.

How do we understand which is direct, which is indirect object? So here is the way we understand, here is the way we infer which object is direct and which is indirect and how do you place certain kinds of objects in a sentence. You do not say my father gifted a book me, it has to become to me. So, these are the things that we have to 'may' keep in mind. Let us look at another sentence. The boys sent a messenger to the city. Again you have two objects, messenger and the city, which one is a direct and which one is the indirect object.

Now, this is a definition, "The noun or the noun phrase that receives the action of the verb is the direct object". In other words, the direct object answers the question of what. What did my father give me? A book. Therefore, my father gifted me a book, which is the direct object here, a book. And the indirect object explains the action of the verb by answering the questions such as to whom or for whom, so who did my father gift the book to? To me, so, me becomes your indirect object. Direct object response to the question what, indirect object response to the question.

Again go back to the earlier sentence, the boy sent a messenger to the city. Now here again 'the city' is your direct object and who did he send (Refer Time: 12:18) to the city, the answer is indirect object the messenger. This music gives me headache. 'This music' is your subject, 'gives' of course is your verb, who? Who does this music give headache to? Me, so I am the indirect object and what does it gave me? Headache, so that becomes your direct object.

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Exercise #1

- Put the words in the correct order
 - is/ Maria/ very nice
 - football/ likes/ Tarun
 - an accident/ Dev/ had
 - moved/ the table/ we
 - a tall woman/ Hiranya/ is
 - sat/ on the floor/ everyone
 - gave/ some help/ Ajmal's friends/ him

Now, look at this slide and try to solve these exercises, these sentences. You are supposed to put the words in the correct order. Do not take too long it is very simple all you have to do is place the words in the correct order and underline Subject, Verb, Object, Indirect object, Direct object also do the Complements, which are the complements? Where the

adverbial are placed? Once you take down these sentences you move on to the next one and look at the answers.

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- Maria is very nice.
- Tarun likes football.
- Dev had an accident.
- We moved the table.
- Hiranya is a tall woman.
- Everyone sat on the floor.
- Ajmal's friends gave him some help.

Maria is very nice, it is a complement. I am sure by now you are able to solve this. So, Maria subject, is very nice. Tarun likes football, subject verb object very simple. Dev had an accident, subject verb object. We moved the table. Hiranya is a tall woman. Everyone sat on the floor. Ajmal's friends gave him some help. So, subject verb object and another object, indirect object and direct object that is the order.

Now, let us look at a sentence like Reena gave Anu a book. So you know 'Reena' is the subject here, 'gave' is the verb, 'Anu' is the indirect object and a book and what did she give? A book is the direct object. Likewise, Shekar told his friends a story. 'Shekar' subject, 'told' verb, 'his friends' they are to whom **it (Refer Time: 15:24)** it answers the question to whom did he tell the story, his friends and what did he tell them a story, so indirect and direct object. Now, look at the sentences here.

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Exercise #2

- Identify the direct and the indirect objects in the following sentences:
 - He took the cat to the Vet.
 - I offered the old lady a seat.
 - Piyush gave the teacher his assignments.
 - It is raining. I will lend you my umbrella.

Look at the slide and identify the direct and indirect objects in the following sentences. Yes, so now we have to understand that or do you want me to solve it for you. So, he took the cat to the wet. 'He' is the subject, 'took' is the verb of course, 'the cat', who did he take and where did he take? So he took 'the cat' is the indirect object, 'to the wet' so it is the direct object. I offered the old lady a seat. 'I' subject, so it is S V O O, 'old lady' in directs, 'a seat' direct. Piyush gave the teacher his assignments. Direct object is 'his assignments', indirect 'the teacher'. It is raining. Yes, it is a nice complicated sentence. I will lend you my umbrella, so you need not worry too much about raining here. Although, it is a sentence in you know complete by itself. I will lend you my umbrella, who I going to lend my umbrella? To you, so that becomes your indirect object and what my umbrella so that is your direct object.

Subject, Verb, Agreement is another very common area, where students sometimes get very confused. Now, it means that the verb changes depending on the type of noun the verb refers to. The verb has to agree with the subject, that is what we mean by the terms subject verb agreement. A subject as you know is an agent or a doer and verb tells what someone does. I will give you an example, James Hargreaves, who was he? He was the inventor of a Spinning Jenny during the Industrial Revolution in England. So, James Hargreaves was the inventor of this Spinning Jenny. Now, which is the subject here?

James Hargreaves of course, and he is the inventor of the spinning jenny, he was this spinning. You have to use the word 'was'. 'James Hargreaves' singular subject, therefore you need a singular verb with it.

If there were more than one inventor then you have to say a verb, James Hargreaves and someone else, they were two men, so those two were the inventors of this spinning jenny. So, this is what we mean, when we say that the verb has to agree with the subject. I want you to look at this particular passage.

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- A group of scientists from Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) **have** thoroughly enjoyed Ridley Scott's forthcoming space drama *The Martian*.
- The screening on Thursday **was** also attended by ten members from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

I will read out to you and let us see how subject verb agreement is happening here. A group of scientist from Indian Space Research Organization have. So, you see scientist thoroughly enjoyed Ridley Scott's forthcoming space drama 'The Martian'. The screening on Tuesday was referring to a screening, also attended by ten members from a National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The director that is referring to Ridley Scott sent out a message, so this verb refers to the director a message to the scientist. I am Ridley Scott. So, subject 'I' and the verb agrees that is 'am' agrees with the subject. In first person singular 'I', I am Ridley Scott, director of the movie which your about to watch.

I guess I have something in common with most of you here, and that is the love for science and space. A subject which has, so now the agreement is between subject and verb, 'subject' is subject here and 'has' is the verb, always fascinated me as some of you would have seen in my earlier films. So, Ridley Scott's earlier films were the blade runner, aliens so that means he is a director, who is interested in the genre of science fiction. Many of us are interested in this genre. So, this is the way in our day today communication we use and we are careful about how verbs have to agree with the subject. Now, you look at this particular passage and identify the subject and verbs.

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Exercise: Identify the subjects/verbs

- I am writing to introduce Dr. L. Szilard who proposes to submit to you certain consideration and recommendation. Unusual circumstances which I shall describe further below introduce me to take this action in spite of the fact that I do not know the substance of the considerations and recommendations which Dr. Szilard proposes to submit to you.

This is your exercise for the day, Letter from Albert Einstein to President Roosevelt. I am writing to introduce Dr. L. Szilard who proposes to submit to you certain consideration and recommendation. Unusual circumstances which I shall describe further below introduce me to take this action in spite of the fact that I do not know the substance of the considerations and recommendations which Dr. Szilard proposes to submit to you.

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- In the summer of 1939 Dr. Szilard put before me his views concerning the potential importance of uranium for national defense. He was greatly disturbed by the potentialities involved and anxious that the United States Government be advised of them as soon as possible.

In the summer of 1939 Dr. Szilard put before me his views concerning the potential importance of uranium for national defence. He was greatly disturbed by the potentialities involved and anxious that the United States Government be advised of them as soon as possible. Now, your task is to identify the subject and verbs.

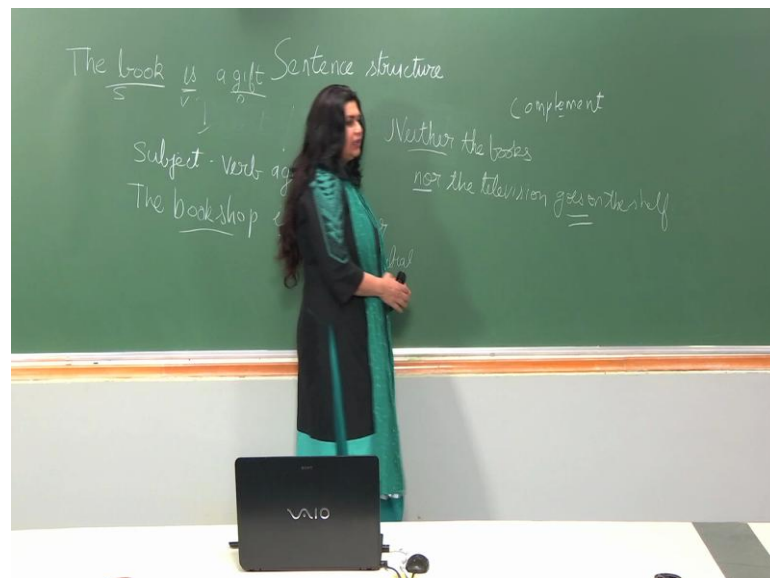
So let us try to solve this exercise. 'I' is the subject and 'am' **right** writing of course is the verb here to introduce Dr. Szilard who proposes so again verb has to go with Dr. Szilard in the third person singular, therefore proposes to submit to you certain consideration and recommendation. Unusual circumstances, which I shall describe further below introduce me, so, 'introduce' is a verb and it has to agree with 'unusual circumstances'. To take this action in spite of the fact that I do not know, so 'do' verb, 'I' is a subject here. And again you go down a bit and considerations and recommendations, which Dr. Szilard proposes, so 'proposes' is the verb, which agrees with Dr. Szilard.

In the summer of 1939 Dr. Szilard put before, so 'put' becomes a past tense and it agrees with 'Dr. Szilard' subject. His views concerning the potential importance of, so you have to remember the past tense of certain words remain as such. So 'put' the past tense of 'put' is 'put', therefore we do not change it. He was greatly disturbed, so 'he' is a subject and

'was' is the verb and anxious that the United States Government be advised of them as soon as possible.

There are certain rules of subject verb agreements when the verb is end like 'or'. Let us think of 'either or' 'neither nor' that is the combination. So, sentence agrees with the noun or pronoun which is closest to it. Let me give you an example because we are talking about certain rules I know that simple sentences are very easy to understand, the kind of examples that we have been doing so far, but when it gets a little more complex what do we do. Let us look at this sentence joined by 'neither nor'.

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Neither the books nor the television goes on the shelf. Neither, nor. Now, look at the verb here 'goes' it is a singular, when it becomes 'go' it is a plural. Here you have plural 'books' here you have singular 'television', so the verb agrees with the noun closest to it. Let us assume if 'books' were to be kept here, than it would have become a plural verb 'go', but because it is 'television' singular it is 'goes' a singular verb. So that is the rule, the verb agrees in cases of 'either or', 'neither nor' with the noun or pronoun closest to it.

Again if a 1 subject is singular and 1 plural and the words are connected by 'either or', 'neither nor', but also you again you use the verb form of the subject that is nearest to the

closest to the verb. Either the teacher or the students have misplaced the equipment. Now, because the verb is closer to the plural, that is a 'students' not to the singular 'teacher'. Now, come and look at these sentences and correct the following.

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Exercise: Correct the following:

- i. It look like it is going to rain.
- ii. In this institute there is lots of buildings.
- iii. A basketball & a tennis court is there in this house.
- iv. Alwyn as well as his brother is in this course.
- v. The benefits of technology is too many to list here.

It look like it is going to rain. In this institute there is lots of buildings. A basketball and a tennis court is there in this house. Alwyn as well as his brother is in this course. The benefits of technology is too many to list here. How do you correct these sentences? 'It looks like it is going to rain', not it look like because it is a singular subject, so therefore you have to use 'looks'. 'In this institute there are lots of buildings', it is not just 1 building so it has to be are lots of buildings. 'A basketball and a tennis court are there in this house', two separate things. 'Alwyn as well as his brother are in this course'. 'The benefits of technology are too many' benefits are too many to list here.

Now, before I wind up this class for today, I want you to look at some of the words, which are very commonly misspelt. This is something that you as an engineer should know and how to correct and what are the rules. We will be looking at rules also, but I want you to take a quick look at words that are commonly misspelt.

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Let us take a look which one is correct. I would like you to do this as part of your self learning. I have already suggested that you start looking of some good dictionaries. Please check, which is the correct form of these very commonly misspelt words.

Thank you very much and we will meet for the next class.

Tags

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