STRUCTURE AND PATTERNS OF
SENTENCES, PHRASES, AND
CLAUSES

PARTS OF A SENTENCE

- The **subject** of a sentence tells the reader who or what the sentence is about.
- The **verb** tells the reader what the action or state of the subject is.
- The **object** of a sentence tells the reader who or what is affected by the subject’s action.

Subject: The man
Verb: opened
Object: the fridge.
A FINITE VERB

A finite verb is a verb that belongs to a subject and shows tense:

I did my homework.

AN INFINITIVE

An infinitive is made up of the marker ‘to’ and the main part of the verb.

I love to read.
THE SENTENCE / SENTENCE FRAGMENT

‘To be, or not to be’

‘That is the question’.

FUNCTIONS

Statement: The cat sat on that mat.

Question: Did the cat sit on that mat?

Command: Sit on that mat, cat!

Exclamation: Wow! Look at that cat!
A CLAUSE

I love reading.

A dependent (subordinate) clause does not make sense on its own.

Because I love reading

SENTENCE STRUCTURES / FORMS

1. Simple: one independent clause.
   Sherlock Holmes waited.

2. Compound: two or more independent clauses.
   a) Sherlock Holmes waited; however, Watson delayed his visit.
   b) Sherlock Holmes waited, and [he] was missed at Lloyd’s registers.

3. Complex: one dependent clause subordinated to one independent clause, either at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end. [Left-branching LB, mid-branching MB, and right-branching RB sentences.]
   a) While Watson moved the lamp, Sherlock Holmes waited.
   b) Sherlock Holmes, though he was anxious to have his dinner, waited.
   c) Sherlock Holmes waited, while Watson moved the lamp.

4. Compound-complex: a second independent clause added to a complex sentence, or a dependent clause subordinated to a compound sentence.
   a) While Watson moved the lamp, Sherlock Holmes waited, and [he] was missed at Lloyd’s registers.
   b) Sherlock Holmes waited, and [he] was missed at Lloyd’s registers, because he was a good customer.
How does every component in a sentence function to contribute to/to extend/to maintain the ensemble of relationships?

CATEGORISING SENTENCES BY FORM

Loose (cumulative):

Plain language reforms have become law in many countries because law makers believe that citizens should have access to documents that they understand.
CATEGORISING SENTENCES BY FORM

Periodic:

Because law makers believe that citizens should have access to documents that they understand, **plain language reforms have become law in many countries.**

SUBJECTS, PREDICATES, AND OBJECTS

These are the ‘slots’ in a sentence.

The subject names. The predicate tells.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Predicate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sherlock Holmes</td>
<td>waited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>gave the cake to her.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Verb**     **Direct object**     **Indirect object**