

Sentence Analysis: A Quick Reference Guide

Level 1 – Parts of Speech

- Noun – person, place, thing, or idea (**n**ouns **n**ame)
- Pronoun – substitute for a noun
 - Antecedent—noun the pronoun is replacing
- Adjective – describes nouns or pronouns (**ad**ds info.)
- Verb – links a subject to its predicate or shows action (**V**anishing, **E**ating, **R**unning, **B**urping)
 - Helping vs. linking: a linking verb is alone (lonely), and a helping verb is paired up with an action verb to help. Some common linking verbs: is, am, are, was, were, be, has, do
- Adverb – describes verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs (usually tells *how*, *when*, or *where*; many adverbs end in *ly*) (**ad**ds description to a **verb**)
- Preposition – relates its object to another word in a clause (Where is the squirrel? On the log, under the log, inside the log, etc.)
- Interjection – expresses emotion
- Conjunction – connects/joins words, phrases, and clauses (coordinating, subordinating, correlative)

F	A	B	B
A	A	A	E
N	A	T	N
B	W		
O	W	S	A
Y	U	W	N
S	B	A	N
	B	B	
	I		
	S		

Level 2 – Parts of Sentence

[simple] subject: Who or what is the clause about? It is a noun or subject pronoun.

[simple] predicate: the verb or verb phrase

If the verb is action,

- look for a direct object, a receiver of the action: ask “What?” or “Who?” after the verb (direct object is a noun or object pronoun)
 - if you find a direct object, look for an indirect object: it is a noun or object pronoun between the verb and direct object; often answers “To whom?” or “For whom” after the direct object

If the verb is linking,

- do not look for a direct object
- look for a subject complement (a noun or subject pronoun that renames the subject—a predicate nominative—or an adjective that describes the subject—a predicate adjective).

Level 3 – Phrases

Phrase = a group of words

- Verb phrase – verb + helping verb(s)
- Prepositional phrase – begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or object pronoun
- Appositive phrase – an interrupting definition surrounded by commas
- *Verbal* phrases (phrase = w/modifiers)
 - Gerund phrase – a verb ending in “ing” that acts as a noun
 - Participial – a verb ending in “ing,” “ed,” or “en” that acts as an adjective
 - Infinitive – the word “to” + a verb that acts as a noun, adjective, or adverb (*to* is not a preposition in this case)

Level 4 – Clauses

Clause – a group of words that has a subject and a predicate

1. Independent clause: makes sense on its own; expresses a complete idea; a sentence
2. Dependent clause: does not make sense on its own; does not express a complete idea; needs to hang on to an independent clause

Clause Punctuation: (cc = coordinating conj.)

I,ccI	ID
I;I	D,I

Sentence Structures:

I	.....	simple
I;I or I,ccI	.....	compound
D,I or ID	.....	complex
D,I,ccI or D,I;I or I;ID or I,ccID	.....	and
so on	.....	compound-complex

Other

A sentence is a group of words that has a subject, a predicate, *and* a complete thought. It begins with a capital letter and ends with punctuation. Every sentence has at least 1 independent clause.