

Clauses And Sentence Structure, And Grammatical Conventions.

The following are grammatical functions and features taken from the annotated text entitled 'Inspiration leaves Mann's mountain'. The full, annotated text can be found later.

Verb – are

Verbs are seen as 'action' or 'doing' words.

"A verb asserts something about the subject of the sentence and express actions, events, or states of being. The verb or compound verb is the critical element of the predicate of a sentence" Heather McFadyen, 1994, University of Ottawa.

Verb phrase – are closing

From Thornbury's, About Language (1997) it can be seen that a phrase is a grouping of words that have functions in individual parts of speech. A verb phrase then consists of one verb or a string of verbs.

Subject – The clinic

The subject is the part of the sentence, according to, University of Wolverhampton. (2004). Exploring Grammar and Developing Reading Skills, CD ROM. Wolverhampton (UK), which indicates who or what is carrying out the action; or verb element of the sentence.

Object – hill

The object therefore is the part of the sentence which is receiving or experiencing the action of the verb.

Subject compliment – German-owned

Furthermore a subject compliment is a piece that adds further information to the subject and conversely an,

Object compliment – after just three weeks.

Is a piece that adds information about the object of the sentence.

Adverbial – on his lung

An adverbial is according to University of Wolverhampton. (2004). Exploring Grammar and Developing Reading Skills, CD ROM. Wolverhampton (UK), a piece which adds information to the verb element of a sentence. More specifically it usually adds information about *when, where or how* the action of the verb took place.

Ellipsis – ...

An Ellipsis (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellipsis>) is a grammatical convention meaning a pause or break where words are missing from a sentence; this in turn comes from the Greek for omission. The convention is that three 'full stops' are placed simultaneously in the sentence to show missing words. It is commonly used when shortening long sentence for publication or printing purposes.

Simple sentence – Mann visited Davos in May 1912.

Compound sentence – His wife Katja had fallen ill with acute bronchitis and had been advised to spend six months in the mountains.

Complex sentence – But now the sanatorium that inspired Mann’s book – an iconic portrait of a group of tuberculosis patients who are drawn to the mountain because of its legendary climate – is to close.

Main clause – Yesterday Maria Rieder, a spokeswoman for the Valbella Clinic, said it was shutting

Subordinate clause – because of the poor economic situation in Germany.

According to, amongst others, University of Wolverhampton. (2004). Exploring Grammar and Developing Reading Skills, CD ROM. Wolverhampton (UK), there are three types of sentences; they are; simple, compound and complex. A simple sentence is one consisting of a single clause, usually containing one noun phrase and one verb phrase. A compound sentence combines two or more of these simple sentences and links them with conjunctions, such as and or but. Finally a complex sentence is a sentence, which on top of its simple initial sentence contains a clause, which is adding to the main focus of the sentence. To this end it can be seen above, an example of each a simple, compound and complex sentence. Further more in a complex sentence there is a main clause and a subordinate clause. The main clause being as the word says the main or ‘focal’ part of the sentence, where as the subordinate clause is the part which is adding further information to this ‘main focus’.

Subordinating conjunction – because

A complex sentence, containing a ‘main’ and ‘subordinate’ clause uses a word such as when, because or so to link the two clauses of the sentence together, this word itself in turn is then called a subordinate conjunction.

Co-ordinating conjunction – and

Similarly a compound sentence which as already stated is two simple sentences linked by and or but, these linking words are called co-ordinating conjunctions.

Non-finite clause – is perched

According to the University of Wolverhampton. (2004). Exploring Grammar and Developing Reading Skills, CD ROM. Wolverhampton (UK), a finite verb is one which has a tense and normally a subject, where as the non-finite verbs are the infinitives, with the –ing or –ed endings and they usually occur without a subject. So non-finite clauses can be regarded as examples of the omission of subject and verb forms.

Declarative sentence – The German owned Valbella Clinic will shut its doors at the end of the month.

According to the University of Wolverhampton. (2004). Exploring Grammar and Developing Reading Skills, CD ROM. Wolverhampton (UK), a declarative sentence is one in which a statement or declaration of simple fact is made.

Exclamatory sentence – “This is clearly a blow for us,” Andrea Meisser, the Davos councillor in charge of health, said yesterday.

According to the University of Wolverhampton. (2004). Exploring Grammar and Developing Reading Skills, CD ROM. Wolverhampton (UK), an exclamatory sentence is one in which something is being exclaimed or made with ‘emotion’. To this end the sentence will almost always end with an exclamation mark, which is why the sentence annotated can be said not to be an exclamatory sentence. However when read in context looking at the language used it is very likely that the spoken part to this sentence at least is exclamatory.

Further to this I can find no examples of **Interrogative sentences**, which according to, Wolverhampton University's, Exploring grammar and developing reading skills, CD Rom, is a sentence which asks a question.

Also there appears to be no examples of **Imperative sentences** which again according to, Wolverhampton University's, Exploring grammar and developing reading skills, CD Rom, is a sentence which is making directions or commands to the reader.