Mid Assignment Exam

Course Title : Functional English

Module: 1

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Answers

Q1: Prior to the 1960s, determiners were classified as adjectives, meaning there were 8 parts of speech not 9. Since the 1960s, there has been a gradual acceptance among grammarians that determiners are different to adjectives. This acceptance has grown to the extent that determiners must now be considered a separate part of speech. However, even today, terms like "possessive adjective" and "demonstrative adjective" are far more commonly used than "possessive determiner" and "demonstrative determiner"

Also, the equivalents in foreign languages are still described as adjectives in those countries, adding to the confusion. This much is clear: Determiners are similar to adjectives, but they're are differences. Nevertheless, there remains a strong argument for claiming there are 8 parts of speech not 9.

Most native English speakers master English grammar without ever consciously learning the parts of speech. However, when learning a foreign language (particularly in a classroom setting), mastering the grammar is a far less natural process. It must be done systematically. Therefore, it is necessary to learn the parts of speech because the teacher's explanations and the exercise books will be packed with them. As well as helping with foreign-language study, learning the parts of speech will also help you with analysing other people's writing and with taking your own writing to the next level.

When choosing adjectives, try to reduce your word count by selecting the right adjective. Typically, this means avoiding words like very and extremely. Don't use those words. Pick better adjectives.

• very happy boy,delighted boy

• very angry, livid

• extremely posh hotel, luxurious hotel

• really serious look, stern look

Q2: When we talk about ‘sentence structure’ we are discussing the various elements of a sentence and how these elements are organized on the page to convey a desired effect.

Writing well in terms of sentence structure requires our students to become familiar with various elements of grammar, as well as the various types of sentences that exist in English

TYPES OF SENTENCE

In English, there are 4 types of sentences that students need to get their heads around. They are:

● Simple sentences

● Compound sentences

● Complex sentences

● Compound-complex sentences

Mastering these four types of sentence will enable students to articulate themselves effectively and with personality and style.

Achieving this necessarily takes plenty of practice, but the process begins with ensuring that each student has a firm grasp on how each type of sentence structure works.

Independent Clauses

Put simply, clauses are parts of a sentence containing a verb. An independent clause can stand by itself as a complete sentence. It expresses a complete thought or idea and contains a subject and a verb - more on this shortly

Dependent Clauses / Subordinate Clauses

Dependent clauses, on the other hand, are not complete sentences and cannot stand by themselves. They do not express a complete idea. To become complete, they must be attached to an independent clause. Dependent clauses are also known as subordinate clauses.

A good way to illustrate the difference between the two is by providing an example that contains both.

For example:

* Even though I am tired, I am going to work tonight.

As the non-underlined portion of the sentence doesn’t work as a sentence on its own, it is a dependent clause. The underlined portion of the sentence could operate as a sentence in its own right and it is therefore an independent clause.

Q3: What are transitive and intransitive verbs While the concepts might sound difficult, they are easier to understand when you think about the verbs and whether there is an object receiving the action of the verbs. Read the two sentences below. What is the difference between the two verbs? At first thought, you may say the definition but forget about the meaning. Instead, concentrate on the grammar. How do the verbs differ grammatically

* The batter hit the ball.
* The bird sang.

Notice that the first sentence has two words following the verb hit. The second sentence doesn’t have words after the verb sang. These two facts lead us to a discussion on transitive and intransitive verbs.

What are transitive verbs

Transitive verbs are action verbs that have an object to receive that action. In the first sentence above, the direct object ball received the action of the verb hit. Below are some examples of transitive verbs.

Transitive Verb Examples

* I baked some cookies.
* I rode the bicycle.
* I moved the chair.
* I stitched a quilt.

All of the verbs in the above sentences are transitive because an object is receiving the action of the verb.

But what about the sentence “The bird sang.” Is the verb in that sentence a transitive verb? No, in this case the verb sang is an intransitive verb.

What are intransitive verbs

Intransitive verbs are action verbs but unlike transitive verbs, they do not have an object receiving the action. Notice there are no words after the verb sang. Below are some examples of intransitive verbs.

Intransitive Verb Examples

* I laughed.
* I cried.
* The book fell.
* The horse galloped.
* The sun set.

In all of the above cases the subject is performing the action of the verb and nothing is receiving the action.

What about this sentence

I walked to the park today.

Is walked an example of transitive or intransitive verbs? Think about the rules. Since walked has words coming after it, the verb must be transitive, right? WRONG! The phrase to the park is a prepositional phrase and today is an adverb. There is no object receiving the action of the verb walked so the verb is intransitive.

To recap, a transitive verb must be an action verb plus there must be an object to receive that action. Hopefully this article has helped explain the difference between transitive and intransitive verbs.