

Basic Clause Types (Kernel Sentences)

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- Relation between Phrases and Clause Elements
- SVOCA and different combinations of them results in various types of sentences
- Noam Chomsky, a contemporary American Linguist, proposed the notion of KERNEL sentences
- The same we call Basic Clause Types

- These Kernel sentences have the following characteristics:
- 1. They all are statements
- 2. they all are positive
- 3. They all are active
- 4. They all are simple
- By applying certain TG (Transformational and Generative) rules we can derive many **non- kernel sentences** like: negative,, passive, question and combination of them like negative passive or passive question etc.

- **Basic Clause Types (07)**
- As already talked that a kind of verb decides what next element is possible after it.
- **1. SV: (NP + VP)** Here we require a Subject and an Intransitive verb
 - **The child laughed**
 - **Birds fly**
 - **The baby cried**
- In the above sentences the verb does not require any further information
- If we add why, when and how the Baby cried, it would be additional info. Not necessary to complete the structure

- 2. **SVCs: (NP+ VP+ NP/ ADJ. Phr)** Here we need an INTENSIVE verb.
- This verb functions as a link between S and what comes after V. The unit that comes after V is identical to the S
- (Verbs like BE, BECOME, SEEM, TURN etc)
 - My friend is a doctor (NP + VP + NP)
 - Mary became a successful businessperson (NP + VP + NP)
 - This building was very beautiful (NP+ VP+ ADJ. Phr)
 - Lion is a ferocious animal (NP + VP+ NP)

- **3. SVO: (NP + VP + NP)** here we need a mono transitive verb which take only one object after it
 - I like movies
 - Me friend killed a wild boar
 - This team will win the match
 - My mother is cooking food
- **4. SVOO: (NP+ VP+NP+NP)** here we need a di-transitive verb which take two objects (both What and Whom)
 - * John gave Mary a pen
 - * Our teacher asked us many questions
 - * His father is teaching him magic tricks

- **5. SVOC_o: (NP+VP+NP+NP/ADJ>Phr)** In this case we need a complex transitive verb where in we have an Object followed by Complement to Object
 - The committee elected my friend a captain
 - I called him bafoon

- **6. SVOA: (NP+VP+NP+ Prep/Adv.phr):** here also we need a complex transitive verb which takes an Object followed by an Adverbial
 - * The waiter is keeping dishes on the table
 - * I had put my hand in the pocket

7. **SVA (NP+VP+Prep/ Adv.phr)** in this case we need an **INTRANSITIVE** verb which takes an adverbial after it

* I live here

* The man sat on the ground

* He is running towards the goal

This is how we conclude that there are
SEVEN Basic Clause Types in English



Thank you!

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