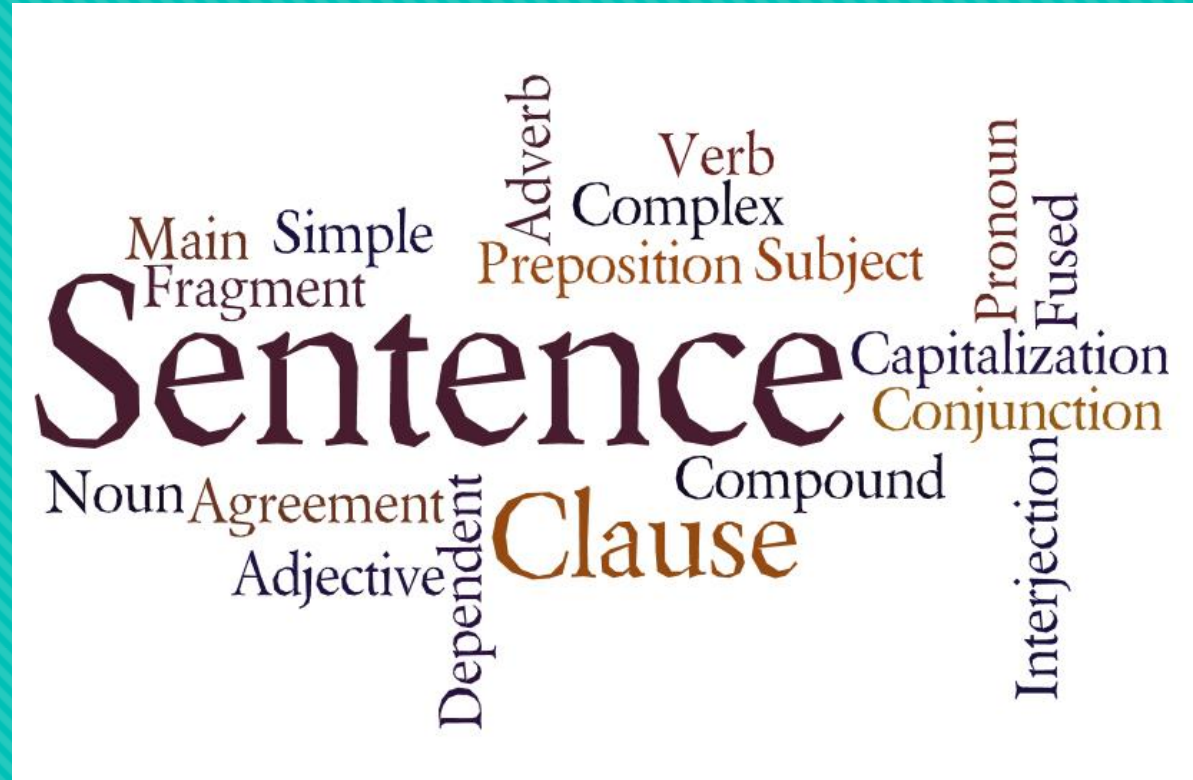


Grammar



What **You** Need to Know

Conquering the Navigation

Throughout this presentation you will find links to more information. You probably won't need all of them, but you will need some.

When you see a **bright green word**, you can click that and get more information. After you've clicked, the word will turn to a **darker green**.

The new pages will have **green** headings instead of the aqua ones you see here, so you will know where you are.

When you're finished, simply click your browser's "Back" button to return to the main presentation.

If you would like to open the presentation in a new window, use the "Ctrl" key while you click.

The Basics

Grammar is simply a set of rules and standards we use when we communicate.

Using standard grammar when we write and speak helps us communicate clearly with other people.

Grammar in a Nutshell

Books upon books have been written about grammar rules and standards, but there is no time to go over **all** of these here. Instead, we will have a quick and dirty review of some basic grammar rules that you can use on the essay portion of the test, and that you might see in the multiple choice section.

- Parts of speech and what they do
- Writing grammatically correct sentences.

Parts of Speech

The English language has eight parts of speech:

- Nouns
- Pronouns
- Verbs
- Adverbs
- Adjectives
- Prepositions
- Conjunctions
- Interjections

Writing Grammatically Correct Sentences

In order to write grammatically correct sentences, which turn into grammatically correct paragraphs, which then turn into grammatically correct papers, you need to know how all of the parts of speech and the punctuation fit together in a sentence.

Essentially there are two types of clauses (a r group of words) in a sentence: main or independent clauses and subordinate or dependent clauses.

Main or Independent Clauses

A Main or Independent Clauses can stand on its own as a sentence. It has a subject and a verb and it makes sense. If a sentence is made up of one single main clause, it is called a simple sentence.

“I want to watch the ball game on Saturday.”

Subject is “I.”

Verb is “want.”

“You should study hard to pass all of your classes.”

Subject is “You.”

Verb is “should study.”

Subordinate or Dependent Clauses

- A Subordinate or Dependent Clause has a subordinate conjunction at the beginning and cannot stand on its own as a sentence because it does not express a complete thought. These are known as FRAGMENTS.

Ex. "While we are at the beach"

"After the movie"

- Subordinate Clauses require more information and so must be combined with another clause that will do that.

Ex. "While we were at the beach, we saw that new shark movie."

"After the movie, we would not go back in the water again."

Types of Sentences

Writers can combine main and subordinate clauses in different ways to make different types of sentences.

- **Simple Sentence : one main clause**

Ex. I learned how to play the drums at an early age.

- **Compound Sentence: two main clauses**

Ex. I learned how to play the drums at an early age, but I never learned to play guitar.

- **Complex Sentence: a subordinate clause and a main clause**

Ex. Although I learned how to play the drums at an early age, I never learned to play the guitar.

The Last Word...

In all likelihood, the VPT is not going to ask you to identify a part of speech, although knowing what they will help you figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word by using the context clues (see the Vocabulary Presentation for more on those!).

Also, knowing the parts of speech will help you craft good sentences for the writing portion. Remember that if you use a subordinate conjunction at the beginning of a clause, that clause cannot stand on its own as a sentence.