

# Università di Cagliari



Corso di Laurea in  
**Economia e Gestione Aziendale**

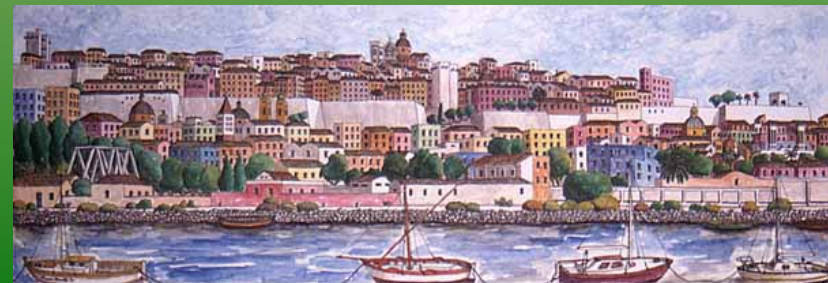
**Economia e Finanza**

**Economia e Gestione dei Servizi Turistici**

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# Instructions



- This lesson will teach you how the different classes of words function.
- It will tell you how discourse develops from the smallest unit of language (the morpheme) to the highest level of discourse (the sentence)

# The Structure of the English Sentence



The International Monetary Fund sent a clear message to the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

This sentence contains 5 phrases

# The Structure of the English Sentence

1. The International Monetary Fund
2. sent
3. a clear message
4. to the Bank of England's
5. Monetary Policy Committee

Each of these phrases is made up of **words**.  
Each of these words consists of one **morpheme** except International and England's which contain two.

# UNITS OF LANGUAGE

- 5. **Sentence** (made up by 1 or more clauses)
- 4. **Clause** (made up by phrases) ↑
- 3. **Phrase** (made up by words) ↑
- 2. **Word** (made up by 1 or more morphemes) ↑
- 1. **Morpheme** (the smallest unit of discourse) ↑

# THE WORD



- The easiest unit of written language to identify. Words have spaces on either sides.
- In speech, it is more difficult (French and English), because pauses do not occur between each word.

# WORD CLASSES



**COHERENCE:** all the words within a class behave in the same way.

**JUMP, WALK, COOK** are form a coherent class because all the **GRAMMATICAL and MORPHOLOGICAL** operations that apply to one (-s; -ed) apply to the others

# WORD CLASSES

Although word classes should be coherent, because of the irregularities in a language, word classes are not totally homogeneous.

Each word class has a core of words that behave identically, from a grammatical point of view. But at the edges of a word class are the more irregular words, some of which may behave like words from other classes

# Irregularity / Gradience

Within each class, some words behave like words from other classes:

- Some adjectives have a function similar to nouns: **THE RICH**

- The word **ROUND** can belong to any of 5 word classes, depending on the grammatical context:

**A ROUND TABLE; ROUND THE CORNER** (prep.); **THE BOAT WILL ROUND THE BUOY; IT'S YOUR ROUND; WE WALKED ROUND TO THE SHOP** (adv.).

# THE WORD

## 9 Classes of words

OPEN  
CLASSES

Nouns  
Verbs  
Adjectives  
adverbs

CLOSED  
CLASSES

Pronouns  
Determiners  
Prepositions  
Conjunctions  
Interjections

# WORD GROUPS



**OPEN CLASSES:** noun, verb,  
adjective and adverb.

- A very large group.
- More words can be added to them.
- They have a definable meaning  
(**Lexical Words**)

# WORD GROUPS



**CLOSED CLASSES:** pronouns,  
determiners, prepositions,  
conjunctions and interjections

- A smaller number.
- They have a grammatical meaning,
- are known as **Structural** or **Functional Words**.

# THE NOUN

A word which names something.

Factors to be considered when analysing nouns:

1. Syntactic structure (noun phrase);
2. Syntactic function (S/O/C);
3. Grammatical Morphology (cats/cat's);
4. Lexical Morphology (-age; -ment, -tion).

# THE NOUN (FACTORS)

## 1. Syntactic structure (noun phrase)

**“The travel arrangements were made by an online booking agency”**

In this sentence, the syntactic structures in **red** are **NOUN PHRASES**, where the main words are the **NOUNS arrangements and agency**.

# THE NOUN (Factors)

2. Syntactic function (S/O/C);

“I made **the** travel arrangements”

“The travel arrangements **were made by**  
**an online booking agency**”

In these sentences, the NOUN

“arrangements” is the **object** (1st s.)

and the **subject** (2nd s.) . In the second

sentence, the noun **agency** is the

**complement**

# THE NOUN

## (Factors)

### 3. Grammatical Morphology (INFLECTIONAL)

Arrangement/ Arrangements

The Bank of Italy / The Bank of Italy's

### 4. Lexical Morphology (DERIVATIONAL)

ArrangeMENT; Inflat(e)ION;

PercentAGE; ManageMENT;

EffectiveNESS; efficien(t)CY

# Proper Nouns

They refer to a specific place, time, person, event, publication and are written with a capital letter. In English, names of months and days are also regarded as p.n.'s.

# Common Nouns



- They are more general in meaning. They can be classified into *Concrete* and *Abstract* nouns

# Common Nouns

- *Concrete* nouns signify material things that can be observed and measured (cat, desk). *Abstract* nouns signify non-material things, such as ideas, feelings, conditions (death, hope).

# Nouns

- We can also classify nouns according to their **countability**
- Count nouns
- Non-count (uncount) nouns

# Nouns

Count nouns refer to individual, countable entities. They cannot stand alone in the singular, and they allow a plural:

interest–interests; share–shares.

Non-count (uncount/mass) n.'s refer to an undifferentiated mass or notion. They can stand alone in the singular, do not allow a plural, and occur in the singular with **some**: money; language; music

# Countability

Some nouns can be both count and uncount, with a slight change of meaning:

Language is a human characteristic

I speak three languages;

The lights were amazing;

Light travels fast.

# Countability

## Countable

Meeting, Ticket

Time

Trip, flight, journey

Location

Questionnaire

Network

## Uncountable

money

time

transport, travel

accommodation

research

information

# Nouns

Morphologically, nouns can be marked for plural. The usual one is the bound morpheme *-s*. Some words have different plural for historical reasons:

*child, foot, sheep.*

# Nouns



Some foreign borrowed words have retained their original plurals:

*index – indeces; antenna – antennae; phenomenon – phenomena; datum – data*

# Nouns




Nouns are also marked to  
show **possession**

My father's car

My parents' video recorder

# Nouns



A noun occurs as the **headword** of a noun phrase (a phrase where a noun or a pronoun is the most important word)

# Nouns

*“The highest stock in the market”* is a noun phrase:  
*STOCK* is the headword,  
premodified by *the highest*  
and postmodified by *in the market*.

# Pronouns

Pronouns are words which stand for a noun, a whole noun phrase, or several noun phrases:

I've got a red hat, and Jane's got a brown one;

My uncle Fred has just arrived. He's very tired;

# Pronouns

Pronouns can also refer to a very general concept which includes the meaning of many possible noun phrases:

I can see someone in the distance (men, boys, girls, soldiers...).

They can also refer to some unspecified event of the situation (pointing):

Look at that! He's going to crash

# Pronouns



Personal, Reflexive,  
Possessive, Relative,  
Demonstrative,  
Interrogative, Indefinite.

# Pronouns

Most pronouns exist in more than one form. This is because they have retained – more than nouns or adjectives – the inflectional form they had in Old English. This is mostly true for **personal pronoun**.

# Pronouns



Personal Pronouns have different forms to denote person, plurality and gender, but they also possess a subject, a possessive and an object case: I-MY-MINE-ME

# Pronouns

Reflexive Pronouns are marked for person, and Demonstratives for plural.

Myself, Yourself .... Ourselves,  
ecc.

This - These; That - Those

# Pronouns

Relative pronouns have a subject case, *who*, a possessive case, *whose*, and an object case, *whom*. They generally refer to persons.

*Whom* is falling into disuse except in formal written English. In expressions such as 'TO **WHOM** IT MAY CONCERN'; he didn't know to **whom** he had to address the letter (he didn't know **who** he had to address the letter to).

*Which and that* are used as both subject and object when referring to inanimate nouns. **That** can also refer to persons

# who



- Kimberly went back to Austin on Friday
- When did Kimberly go back to Austin?
- Where did Kimberly go back on Friday?
- Who went back to Austin on Friday?
- I went out with Jen last Saturday
- Who went out with Jen last Saturday?
- Who did you go out with...?

# The Verb



A word which signifies an action or a state.

A sentence may contain a single verb, or it may use a cluster of verbs which work together as a verb phrase:

I **saw** an elephant, You **didn't see** one.  
They **coundn't have seen** one.

# The Verb

Three classes of verbs can occur within the verb phrase:

- Lexical Verbs;
- Primary Auxiliary Verbs;
- Modal Auxiliary Verbs.

# Classes of Verbs

Lexical verbs have a meaning, as a vocabulary item. They act as main verbs. Morphologically, they have more forms than any other word class:

base form; infinitive; 3<sup>rd</sup> pers. sing.;  
present tense; past tense;  
pres. participle; past participle.

# Classes of Verbs

Auxiliary verbs are used in conjunction with lexical verbs.

Primary auxiliaries verbs are **be**, **have**, and **do**.

They can **also** be used as lexical verbs (main verbs):

That firm has many employees;

That firm has employed many skilled workers.

They did a good job; Do you play the piano?

He was in New York last year. He was sent to New York on business

# Classes of Verbs

**Modal auxiliaries** are, can, could, may, might, will, would, shall, should, and must (with ought to, used to, need and dare having a similar function).

They convey a certain kind of judgements about the probability or possibility of events, or about the ability of performing an action.

They only function as auxiliary verbs

# Classes of Verbs

## Modal auxiliaries:

Can you do me a favour?

It may rain tomorrow

This might be a problem

May I use the toilet?

He couldn't do it today.

# Verb Finiteness

We usually classify verbs into 2 broad types, based on the kind of contrast in meaning they express:

**FINITE FORMS** are those which limit the verb to a particular number, tense, person or mood. In a series of verbs, the finite one is always the first:

I was being asked; He hadn't done it

They did not understand the problem

# Verb Finiteness

**NONFINITE FORMS** do not limit the verb. When a nonfinite form is used (-ing; -ed; infinitive), the verb can refer to any number, tense, person, mood.

A nonfinite form of the verb stays the same in a clause, regardless of the grammatical variation taking place:

I'm leaving / They're leaving / He was leaving / He might be leaving.

# Verb Finiteness

A verbal phrase is **finite** if

- 1) it is inflected for tense, and
- 2) it agrees with its subject in number and person.

**Question:**

Is the underlined verb finite or non-finite?

He walks.

It is finite because

- 1) a different form of verb changes the tense:

He walked.

- 2) a change in number of subject (sing > plural or vice versa) forces agreement change. They walk.

# Verb Finiteness

Finite and non-finite verbal phrases are constructed using forms of the verbs **to be** and **to have** as auxiliaries,

<---TENSE CHANGE----->

He is jumping

He was jumping.

NUMBER

CHANGE They are jumping

They were jumping.

Also: He has jumped and They have jumped.

Any of the above kinds of verbal phrases are **finite** and can be substituted for other finite verbal phrases.

# Verb Finiteness



Verbal phrases with non-finite auxiliaries look like this:

jumping, be jumped,  
to have jumped,  
being jumped,  
to be jumped,  
having jumped

# Verb Finiteness

Here are some examples of verbal groups in which the finite element is indicated by the symbol "f", and non-finite elements by the symbol "nf", and the verbal group has been underlined.

SHE WORKS (f) IN A BANK

**SHE HAS (f) WORKED (nf) IN A BANK**

SHE HAD (f) BEEN (nf) WORKING (nf) IN A BANK

**I AM (f) HAVING (nf) A HOLIDAY**

I USED (f) TO WORK (nf) IN A BANK

# Adjectives

Adjectives express some quality of a noun or pronoun.  
They are defined according to their function.

- In English they normally occur before a noun (ATTRIBUTIVE FUNCTION); a beautiful day; an **important** meeting; a strong inflation
- They can occur alone after forms of the verb be (PREDICATIVE FUNCTION): He is ugly; It's nice.
- They can be immediately preceded by **very** and other **INTENSIFYING** words (**rather**, **incredibly**...).

# Adjectives

3 forms:

base form; comparative;  
superlative

Adjectives can be

pre-modified by intensifiers  
such as *very, rather, terribly...*

# Adverbs

The relationship between adverbs and verbs is similar to that between adjectives and nouns.

They define the manner, place and time of an action:

*He spoke loudly – We live here*

*She arrived recently.*

# Adverbs



Many can be formed by adding the derivational morpheme *-ly* to the adjective.

Many other adverbs are monomorphemic words (*soon, fast, often*)

# Determiners



They are used in conjunction with the noun and their function is **to limit** the reference of the noun.

# Determiners

They can identify the noun: *a, the* (articles); *this, that, these, those* (demonstrative pronouns); *my, his, ecc.* (possessive pronouns).

■ They can quantify the noun: *some, any, much, no* (indefinite pronouns).

# Determiners

A few words such as **all** or **half** are sometimes classed as **predeterminers**: **all** *the shares*.

Others, such as **numerals**, are called **post-determiners**: *the* **five** *shares*.

# Determiners



Determiners are part of the **premodification** structure of the noun phrase, that part which comes before the head:

*“The big strong company on the market”*

# Prepositions

They are words which come before a noun to form a structural unit, showing how the parts are related in space and time:

through *the years*, under *the table*,  
over *the moon*, on *the bench*, at *3*.

These resulting structures are known as **prepositional phrases**.

# Prepositions

Single-word prepositions include:

About, at, before, by, down, for, from, in, of, on, out, over, round, since, through, to, under, up, with:

Multi-word prepositions include:

Ahead of, because of, due to, instead of, near to, as far as, by means of, in accordance with, in spite of, on behalf of

# Conjunctions

CONJUNCTIONS are words which join stretches of language (clauses) to each other. We know

Co-ordinating and Subordinating  
conjunctions

# Conjunctions

Co-ordinating conjunctions link units which have the same status in the sentence, such as two clauses, two noun phrases, or two adjectives:

**AND, OR, BUT; NEITHER...NOR  
EITHER....OR**

My mother and my father;

My brother plays soccer but my sister hates it

Neither Richard nor Albert play the piano

Her stocks are strong and stable

# Conjunctions

**Subordinating** conjunctions join units which **do not have** the same grammatical status in the sentence, as when one clause is **subordinated to** another:

It started to rain after I had just come in.

We went out when the rain stopped.

**As** it was raining, we couldn't go out.

Although I was cold, I didn't put my coat on.

If she didn't study so much, she couldn't pass her exams.