

Fourth Year Grammar

Quirk's A University Grammar of English is adopted to be the coursebook for teaching English grammar for English department students at the university of AL-Hamdaniya. It teaches students how to examine the internal structure of the simple sentence, and treat it as a single independent clause. The book introduces the five functional elements of clause structure:

- Subject (S)
- Verb (V)
- Object (O)
- Complement (C)
- Adverbial (A)

It classifies English clauses into major structural patterns such as SV, SVC, SVO, SVOO, and SVOC. The discussion emphasizes the distinction between objects and complements, and between obligatory and optional adverbials. A key point is that a simple sentence may contain coordinated elements or expanded phrases, but it remains simple as long as it consists of only one clause.

Moreover, it introduces subordination and explains how complex sentences are formed by combining a main clause with one or more subordinate clauses. The authors distinguish three principal types of subordinate clauses:

- Nominal clauses (functioning as subject, object, or complement)
- Relative clauses (modifying noun phrases)

- Adverbial clauses (expressing time, cause, condition, concession, purpose, etc.)

Nevertheless, it focuses on the syntactic roles these clauses perform within the main clause and on the subordinators and relative words that introduce them. The defining feature of the complex sentence is hierarchical dependency.

Additionally, it develops the discussion of complex sentences by examining more advanced features of subordination. It analyzes finite and non-finite subordinate clauses (to-infinitive, -ing, and -ed clauses), reduced clause structures, and variations in clause position. This coursebook also explores semantic relationships expressed by adverbial clauses and the structural depth created by multiple embedding.

All in all, the process of teaching this coursebook moves smoothly from the structure of the simple clause to increasingly sophisticated forms of subordination, providing a systematic account of English sentence structure within a functional framework.