Unit 3 Language Study Guide

Sentence Types, Dialogue, and Subject Verb Agreement

**Sentence Types**

Simple Sentence = 1 subject + 1 predicate

Example: The girl ran through the yard.

Compound Sentence = Simple Sentence + Comma + Conjunction + Simple Sentence

\*You do not need a comma when using the conjunction because.

Examples: She will leave soon, and she still has to pack.

She wants to go to Hawaii, but she is settling for Florida.

She wants to go to Hawaii because it looks exotic and exciting!

She is going to Destin, or she will go to Panama City.

Complex Sentence = Dependent Clause (fragment) + Comma + Simple Sentence

Examples: While in Hawaii, I travelled all over the island of Oahu.

Although I didn’t get to see the volcanoes, I would not change anything about the trip.

At Pearl Harbor, the memorials took my breath away.

**Dialogue Rules**

1. Start a new paragraph every time the speaker changes.
2. All dialogue (spoken words) must go inside quotation marks.
3. Ending punctuation goes inside the quotation marks.
   1. “It’s almost Thanksgiving!” she exclaimed.
4. If a sentence would end with a period, a comma is placed at the end instead, and the period comes at the end of the speech tag. If the speech tag comes first, a period goes at the end inside the quotation marks. If it ends with an exclamation mark or a question mark, it goes inside the quotation marks AND a period comes at the end of the speech tag.
   1. “I’m going to my grandma’s house for Thanksgiving,” she said.
   2. She said, “I’m going to my grandma’s house for Thanksgiving.”
   3. “Where are you going for Thanksgiving?” she asked.
   4. “I’m so excited to see my family!” she exclaimed.
5. Dialogue always begins with a capital letter unless a complete sentence is split up by a speech tag.
   1. She said, “I’m going to my grandma’s house for Thanksgiving.”
   2. “When I go to Grandma’s for Thanksgiving,” she explained, “we always have a great time.”
   3. “I always have a great time at Thanksgiving,” she explained. “We have a delicious meal, watch football, and enjoy each other’s company.”

**Subject-Verb Agreement**

Subjects and verbs must agree in number. If a subject is singular, the verb must be singular. If the subject is plural, the verb must be plural.

Singular verbs have an “s”, but plural verbs do not.

Examples: She plays basketball.

They play basketball.

**Compound Subjects**

Compound subjects combined with “and” become plural. It is easiest to think about them as being replaced with the pronoun “they.”

Example: Sally and John like to take care of their garden.

When compound subjects are joined with the conjunction “or”, the verb must agree in number with the second item.

Examples: A city council or other government body discusses the proposed law and votes on it.

The two subject are “a city council” and “other government body.” Because they are joined by “or”, you must look at the second simple subject, “body.” It is singular, so it needs the singular verb “discusses.”

Either the boss or the engineers have made a terrible mistake.

“The boss or the engineers” is the complete subject. Because they are joined by “or”, you must look at the second item. “The engineers is plural, so it needs the plural “have” rather than “has.”

**Prepositional Phrases Separating Subject and Verb**

The subject of a sentence is NEVER located in a prepositional phrase (a phrase or clause that begins with a preposition). Examples of prepositional phrases include: over the moon, in the yard, at the school, of the class, etc. This makes it more difficult to identify the subject of a sentence and choose the correct verb.

Examples: The children in the class love to read!

“Children” is the subject and it is plural, so it needs the plural verb “love.” The prepositional phrase is, “in the class.”

The animal in the woods runs past me every day.

“Animal” is the singular subject so it needs the singular verb “runs.” “In the woods” is the prepositional phrase.