# *The Magic Lens*: Four-level Analysis
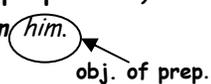
**Grammar:** a way of thinking about language

**Four levels of traditional grammar:** parts of speech, parts of sentence, phrases, clauses

## Level I:  Parts of Speech

**Parts of Speech**: the eight kinds of words in English

1. **Noun:** the name of a person, place, or thing
   a. **Common or proper?** (*country, United States*)
   b. **Singular or plural?** (*child, children*)
   c. **Concrete or abstract?** (*desk, loyalty*)

2. **Pronoun**: a word that takes the place of a noun
   a. **Subject Pronouns:** used for subjects of verbs and subject complements
      (**Singular:** *I, you, he, she, it*   **Plural:** *we, you, they*)
   b. **Object Pronouns:** used as direct or indirect objects, and objects of prepositions
      (**Singular:** *me, you, him, her, it* **Plural:**  *us, you, them*)
   c. **Person:** 1$^{st}$, 2$^{nd}$, or 3$^{rd}$
   d. **Antecedent:** the noun the pronoun replaces
      **EX:  Ike** caught the ball, and then **he** passed it. (*Ike* is the antecedent of *he*.)
   e. **Other kinds of pronouns: demonstrative, interrogative, relative, indefinite**

3. **Adjective:** a word that modifies a noun or pronoun (*What kind? Which one? How many?*)
   a. **Article:** the three adjectives *a, an*, and *the*
      o **Definite article:** *the*
      o **Indefinite articles:** *a, an*
      **Example:**
      He drives *a blue* car.
   b. **Three Degrees of Adjectives: positive, comparative, superlative**
      **Examples:**  *sharp       sharper       sharpest*
                     *careful    more careful   most careful*

4. **Verb:** a word that shows action, being, or links a subject to its subject complement
   a. **Six verb tenses:  present, past, future, present perfect, past perfect, future perfect**
   b. **Helping verb?**  (We *will have* attended the concert.)
   c. **Singular or plural?** (He *brings* his lunch.   They *bring* their lunch.)
   d. **Action or linking?** (He *threw* the rock.   He *is* angry.)
   e. **Transitive or intransitive?** (He *threw* the rock.   The rock *flew* through the air.)
   f. **Active voice or passive voice?** (He *threw* the rock.   The rock *was thrown* at him.)

5. **Adverb:**  a word that modifies a verb, adjective, or adverb
   (Tells *How? When? Where? To what extent?*)  (*Often ends in –ly*)
   **Example:**
   The movie started *early*.

6. **Conjunction:**  a word that joins words or groups of words
   a. **Coordinating conjunctions:** *and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet*
   b. **Subordinating conjunctions**: *if, as, since, when, because ….*
   c. **Correlative conjunctions:** *either or, neither nor, not only  but also, ….*
   d. **Conjunctive adverbs:** *therefore, however, nevertheless, …..*

7. **Preposition**: shows the relationship between its object (the **object of the preposition**) and another word in the sentence  **Example:**  I received a letter *from him.*
   **obj. of prep.**

8. **Interjection:** shows emotion but has no grammatical function
   Examples: **Whew!**     **Oh**, I don't think so.

## Level II:  Parts of the Sentence

**Sentence**: a group of words that has a **subject** and a **predicate**, and makes a complete thought

**Fragment**: an incomplete thought     **Examples:**  I hurried to class because I was late. *(sentence)*
                                          Because I was late. *(fragment)*

**Steps in Identifying the Parts of the Sentence**

**Step 1:  Find the SUBJECT/PREDICATE set.**

**subject**: the noun or pronoun that the sentence is about    **EX:** *John sat in the back.*

**predicate**: the simple predicate is the verb   **EX:** *John **sat** in the back.*

**Step 2:** Decide whether the verb is ACTION or LINKING.

*If the verb is ACTION, then . . .*

      *Look for a direct object.*

    **direct object:** the noun or object pronoun that receives the action of the action verb

      **Example:** She brought the *sandwiches*. [**S**ubject-**A**ction **V**erb-**D**irect **O**bject]

*If you find a direct object, then . . .*

      *Look for an indirect object.*

    **indirect object:** the noun or object pronoun between the action verb and the direct object, that is indirectly affected by the noun

      **Example:** She gave *him* the books. [**S**ubject-**A**ction **V**erb-**I**ndirect **O**bject-**D**irect **O**bject]

*If the verb is LINKING, it <u>must</u> have a subject complement.*

    **subject complement:** the noun, subject pronoun, or adjective that is linked to the subject by a linking verb and that tells more (gives more <u>complete</u> information about) the subject

      <u>Two kinds</u> of subject complements:

      1. **predicate nominative** (also called *predicate noun* or *predicate pronoun*)
          **Example:** She is **captain**. [**S**ubject-**L**inking **V**erb-**S**ubject **C**omplement]
      2. **predicate adjective**
          **Example:** She is **brilliant**. [**S**ubject-**L**inking **V**erb-**S**ubject **C**omplement]

## Level III:  Phrases

**phrase:** a group of words that acts as a single part of speech and <u>does not</u> have a subject/predicate set

1. **Prepositional phrase:** a phrase beginning with a preposition (used as an **adjective** or **adverb**)
    **Example:** Put the book <u>*on my desk*</u>. (**prepositional adverb phrase**—tells **where** to *put* the book)
    **Example:** The book <u>*on my desk*</u> is my favorite. (**prepositional adjective phrase**—tells **which** *book*)
2. **Appositive:** an interrupting definition   **EX:** My teacher, **Mrs. McLeod**, lives in Seneca.
3. **Verbal:** a verb form used as a noun, adjective, or adverb

    **Three kinds of verbals:**

      a. **gerund:** an *-ing* verb used as a noun    **EX:** *Skating* is my favorite sport.
      b. **participle:** a verb form (ending in *-d, -ed,-en,-ing*, etc.) used as an adjective
        **EX:** The **swollen** river flooded its banks.
      c. **infinitive:** the **to-** form of the verb, used as a noun or modifier    **EX:** He loves **to read**.

## Level IV:  Clauses

**clause:** a group of words that has a subject/predicate set

**Two Kinds of Clauses**

1. **Independent Clause (I):** a clause that makes sense independently    **EX:** Ben was a soldier.
2. **Dependent Clause (D):** a clause that does not make sense unless it can "hang on to" (*de*=down; *pend*=hang) an independent clause.  **EX:** If Ben was a soldier . . . .

**Four Sentence Structures**

1. **Simple Sentence (I)** <u>one</u> independent clause    **EX:** The hall is littered with papers.
2. **Compound Sentence (I+I)** <u>two or more</u> independent clauses
    **EX:** The hall is littered with papers, but the classrooms are clean. **[Punctuation:  I,ccI]**
    **EX:** The hall is littered with papers; the classrooms are clean. **[Punctuation:  I;I]**
3. **Complex Sentence (ID or D,I)** an independent clause joined to a dependent clause
    **EX:** The hall is littered with papers because students were in a hurry. **[Punctuation:  ID]**
    **EX:** Because students were in a hurry, the hall is littered with papers. **[Punctuation:  D,I]**
4. **Compound-Complex Sentence:  (I+I+D or D+I+I, etc.)** contains both compound clause structure and complex clause structure
    **EX:** The hall is littered with papers now, but it was clean when the day began. **(I,ccID)**

**Four Sentence Types:**

1. **declarative sentence:** makes a statement (declares)  **EX:** It is a hot day.
2. **interrogative sentence:** asks a question (interrogates)  **EX:** Is it a hot day?
3. **imperative sentence:** makes a command or request  **EX:** Open the window.
4. **exclamatory sentence:** shows emotion (exclaims)  **EX:** What a hot day it is!