**Key Clause Elements**

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| **Clause Element** | **Description** |
| **Subject (S)** | Most clauses contain one or more subjects. The subject usually sits in the first slot of the clause. The subject is nearly always a single noun, a pronoun, or a noun phrase. The subject is what is reflected in the action or state of the verb. Sometimes the subject is assumed, or covert. |
| **Verb (V)** | All clauses must contain a verb. The verb usually sits in the second slot in the clause and may be seen as the key element of the predicate structure. |
| **Object (O)** | The object slot is not obligatory in clause structure. Clauses that contain transitive verbs are obliged to include an object. The object closely reflects the verb in that it tells who or what is affected by the action or state of the verb., The object may be direct or indirect; some clauses may contain both a direct and an indirect object |
| **Complement (C)** | The complement slot is not obligatory in clause structure. Complements are often seen after copular *be* verbs and intransitive verbs. The complement typically provides further characterization of the subject or the object. |
| **Adverbial (A)** | The adverbial slot is not obligatory in clause structure. Adverbials provide additional information about time, location, and manner. |

**Examples of Independent Clauses with Two, Three, and Four Slots**

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| --- | --- |
| **Number of Slots** | **Independent Clause Slots** |
| **S** | **V** | **O** | **C** | **A** |
| **Two** | *The child* | *is crying* |  |  |  |
| **Three** | *The child* | *wants* | *her mother* |  |  |
| *The child* | *is* |  | *unhappy* |  |
| *The child* | *is* |  |  | *over there* |
| **Four** | *The child* | *wants* | *her mother* |  | *now* |
| *The child* | *seemed* |  | *ill* | *all week* |
| *The child* | *called* | *the teacher* | *“mommy”* |  |

**Common Clause Elements**

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|  | **Pattern** | **Example** |
| **Active Voice** | **Subject + Verb** | *Jenny sleeps.* |
| **Subject + Verb + Indirect Object** | *Jenny told him.* |
| **Subject + Verb + Complement** | *Jenny is happy.* |
| **Subject + Verb + Adverbial** | *Jenny was here.* |
| **Subject + Verb + Direct Object** | *Jenny took the test.* |
| **Subject + Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object** | *Jenny gave him the bag.* |
| **Subject + Verb + Direct Object + Complement** | *Jenny thought him a slob.* |
| **Subject + Verb + Direct Object + Adverbial** | *Jenny put the hat over there.* |
| **Passive Voice** | **Subject + Verb** | *The bracelet was stolen.* |
| **Subject + Verb + Indirect Object** | *The test was given to her.* |
| **Subject + Verb + Adverbial** | *The vehicle was stolen today.* |

**Classification of Sentences**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Sentence Type** | **Example** |
| **Clause Structure** | **Simple** | *Syntax is one domain of language.* |
| **Compound** | *Syntax refers to the internal structure of sentences, and morphology refers to the internal structure of words.* |
| **Complex** | *Syntax, which refers to the internal structure of sentences, is one of several domains of language.* |
| **Compound-Complex** | *Syntax, which refers to the internal structure of sentences, is one domain of language; morphology, which is yet another language domain, refers to the internal structure of words.* |
| **Function** | **Declarative** | *Syntax is one domain of language.* |
| **Imperative** | *Tell me about syntax.* |
| **Exclamatory** | *Syntax is fun!* |
| **Interrogative** | *What do you think about syntax?* |