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Sentence structure rules in french

The job of grammar is to organize words into sentences, and there are many ways to do that (or we could say, "words can be organized into sentences in many different ways"). For this reason, describing how to put a sentence together isn't as easy as explaining how to bake a cake or assemble a model plane. There are no easy recipes, no step-by-step instructions. But that doesn't mean that crafting an effective sentence depends on magic or good luck. Experienced writers know that the basic parts of a sentence can be combined and arranged in countless ways. So as we work to improve our writing, it's important to understand what these basic structures are and how to use them effectively. We'll begin by introducing the traditional parts of speech and the most common sentence structures. One way to begin studying basic sentence structures is to consider the traditional parts of speech (also called word classes): nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, articles, and interjections. Except for interjections ("ouch!"), which have a habit of standing by themselves, the parts of speech come in many varieties and may show up just about anywhere in a sentence. To know for sure what part of speech a word is, we have to look not only at the word itself but also at its meaning, position, and use in a sentence. The basic parts of a sentence are the subject, the verb, and (often, but not always) the object. The subject is usually a noun — a word that names a person, place, or thing. The verb (or predicate) usually follows the subject and identifies an action or a state of being. An object receives the action and usually follows the verb. A common way of expanding the basic sentence is with modifiers, words that add to the meanings of other words. The simplest modifiers are adjectives and adverbs. Adjectives modify nouns, while adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Like adjectives and adverbs, prepositional phrases add meaning to the nouns and verbs in sentences. A prepositional phrase has two basic parts: a preposition plus a noun or a pronoun that serves as the object of the preposition. There are four basic sentence structures in English: A simple sentence is a sentence with just one independent clause (also called a main clause): Judy laughed. A compound sentence contains at least two independent clauses: Judy laughed and Jimmy cried. A complex sentence contains an independent clause and at least one dependent clause: Jimmy cried when Judy laughed. A compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause: Judy laughed and Jimmy cried when the clowns ran past their seats. A common way to connect related words, phrases, and even entire clauses is to coordinate them — that is, connect them with a basic coordinating conjunction such as "and" or "but." To show that one idea in a sentence is more important than another, we rely on subordination, treating one word group as secondary (or subordinate) to another. One common form of subordination is the adjective clause, a word group that modifies a noun. The most common adjective clauses begin with one of these relative pronouns: who, which, and that. An appositive is a word or group of words that identifies or renames another word in a sentence — most often a noun that immediately precedes it. Appositive constructions offer concise ways of describing or defining a person, place, or thing. Like an adjective clause, an adverb clause is always dependent on (or subordinate to) an independent clause. Like an ordinary adverb, an adverb clause usually modifies a verb, though it can also modify an adjective, adverb, or even the rest of the sentence in which it appears. An adverb clause begins with a subordinating conjunction, an adverb that connects the subordinate clause to the main clause. A participle is a verb form used as an adjective to modify nouns and pronouns. All present participles end in -ing. The past participles of all regular verbs end in -ed. Irregular verbs, however, have various past participle endings. Participles and participial phrases can add vigor to our writing, as they add information to our sentences. Among the various kinds of modifiers, the absolute phrase may be the least common but one of the most useful. An absolute phrase, which consists of a noun plus at least one other word, adds details to an entire sentence — details that often describe one aspect of someone or something mentioned elsewhere in the sentence. There are four main types of sentences that can be distinguished by their function and purpose: A declarative sentence makes a statement: Babies cry. An interrogative sentence poses a question: Why do babies cry? An imperative sentence gives instructions or expresses a request or demand: Please be quiet. An exclamatory sentence expresses strong feelings by making an exclamation: Shut up! Le futur simple corresponds to the will-future tense in English. We mostly use this tense to talk about future plans or intentions, as well as to make predictions about what may occur in the future. We conjugate the future tense by adding the endings -ai, -as, -a, -ons, -ez and -ont to the infinitive of the verb. Learn everything you need to know about the futur simple in French grammar with Lingolia's quick and easy examples, then put your knowledge to the test in the exercises. We use the futur simple in the following cases: to talk about future intentions Example: Demain je rangerai les dossiers.Tomorrow I'll sort the files. to make suppositions or predictions about the future Example: Tu ne finiras jamais en une journée.You'll never finish that in one day. in conditional sentences (if sentences) Example: Si on range à deux, on finira plus vite.If we tidy up together, we'll be done faster. To conjugate the futur simple, we take the infinitive of the verb and add the following endings (for -re verbs, we remove the final e): The verbs avoir and être are irregular in the futur simple. To see the conjugation of any French verb in the futur simple, go to our verb conjugator. Exceptions to the conjugation rules A short e in the word stem receives a grave accent (accent grave) in the futur simple Example: peserto weigh - je pèserai modelerto model - je modèlerai Some verbs double their consonants. Example: jeterto throw - je jetterai For some verbs ending in -rir, the i is omitted before adding the future ending. Example: courirto run - je courrai mourirto die - je mourrai For verbs ending in -yer, the y becomes an i in the futur simple. (For verbs ending in -ayer, both y and i are permitted) Example: employerto employ - j'emploierai, tu emploieras, il emploiera, nous emploierons, vous emploierez, ils emploierontpayerto pay - je payerai/paierai Verbs ending in -oir are irregular in the futur simple, as are aller, envoyer, faire and venir. Check their conjugation in the list of irregular verbs. Example: pouvoirtto be able to - je pourrai, tu pourras, il pourra, nous pourrons, vous pourrez, ils pourront Improve your French with Lingolia. Each grammar topic comes with one free exercise where you can review the basics, as well as many more Lingolia Plus exercises where you can practise according to your level. Check your understanding by hovering over the info bubbles for simple explanations and handy tips. Le futur simple - Free Exercise Le futur simple - mixed exercises Le futur simple - Lingolia Plus Exercises Become a Lingolia Plus member to access these additional exercises. Le futur simple - tableaux de conjugaison (être/avoir) A2 Le futur simple - tableaux de conjugaison (verbes en -er) A2 Le futur simple - tableaux de conjugaison (verbes en -ir) B1 Le futur simple - tableaux de conjugaison (verbes en -re) B1 Le futur simple - tableaux de conjugaison (mélange) A2 Le futur simple - être A2 Le futur simple - avoir A2 Le futur simple - verbes fréquents A2 Le futur simple - mélange B1 Le futur simple - verbes en -er A2 Le futur simple - verbes en -ir B1 Le futur simple - verbes en -re B1 Le futur simple - verbe irrégulier : aller A2 Le futur simple - verbe irrégulier : devoir A2 Le futur simple - verbe irrégulier : pouvoir A2 Le futur simple - verbe irrégulier : savoir A2 Le futur simple - verbe irrégulier : venir A2 Le futur simple - verbe irrégulier : vouloir A2 Le futur simple - négation (1) A2 Le futur simple - négation (2) A2 Le futur simple - négation (verbes pronominaux) A2 Le futur simple - Voyage au Tibet B1 A1Beginner A2Elementary B1Intermediate B2Upper intermediate C1Advanced In English grammar, sentence structure is the arrangement of words, phrases, and clauses in a sentence. The grammatical function or meaning of a sentence is dependent on this structural organization, which is also called syntax or syntactic structure. In traditional grammar, the four basic types of sentence structures are the simple sentence, the compound sentence, the complex sentence, and the compound-complex sentence. The most common word order in English sentences is Subject-Verb-Object (SVO). When reading a sentence, we generally expect the first noun to be the subject and the second noun to be the object. This expectation (which isn't always fulfilled) is known in linguistics as the "canonical sentence strategy." One of the first lessons learned by the student of language or linguistics is that there is more to language than a simple vocabulary list. To learn a language, we must also learn its principles of sentence structure, and a linguist who is studying a language will generally be more interested in the structural principles than in the vocabulary per se.—Margaret J. Spears "Sentence structure may ultimately be composed of many parts, but remember that the foundation of each sentence is the subject and the predicate. The subject is a word or a group of words that functions as a noun; the predicate is at least a verb and possibly includes objects and modifiers of the verb."—Lara Robbins "People are probably not as aware of sentence structure as they are of sounds and words, because sentence structure is abstract in a way that sounds and words are not. . . . At the same time, sentence structure is a central aspect of every sentence. . . . We can appreciate the importance of sentence structure by looking at examples within a single language. For instance, in English, the same set of words can convey different meanings if they are arranged in different ways. Consider the following: The senators objected to the plans proposed by the generals.The senators proposed the plans objected to by the generals. The meaning of [first] the sentence is quite different from that of [the second], even though the only difference is the position of the words objected to and proposed. Although both sentences contain exactly the same words, the words are structurally related to each other differently: it is those differences in structure that account for the difference in meaning."—Eva M. Fernández and Helen Smith Cairns "It has been known since the Prague School of Linguistics that sentences can be divided into a part that anchors them in the preceding discourse ('old information') and a part that conveys new information to the listener. This communicative principle may be put to good use in the analysis of sentence structure by taking the boundary between old and new information as a clue to identifying a syntactic boundary. In fact, a typical SVO sentence such as Sue has a boyfriend can be broken down into the subject, which codes the given information, and the remainder of the sentence, which provides the new information. The old-new distinction thus serves to identify the VP [verb phrase] constituent in SVO sentences."—Thomas Berg "The grammatical structure of a sentence is a route followed with a purpose, a phonetic goal for a speaker, and a semantic goal for a hearer. Humans have a unique capacity to go very rapidly through the complex hierarchically organized processes involved in speech production and perception. When syntacticians draw structure on sentences they are adopting a convenient and appropriate shorthand for these processes. A linguist's account of the structure of a sentence is an abstract summary of a series of overlapping snapshots of what is common to the processes of producing and interpreting the sentence."—James R. Hurford "Linguists investigate sentence structure by inventing sentences, making small changes to them, and watching what happens. This means that the study of language belongs to the scientific tradition of using experiments to understand some part of our world. For example, if we make up a sentence (1) and then make a small change to it to get (2), we find that the second sentence is ungrammatical. (1) I saw the white house. (Grammatically correct) (2) I saw the house white. (Grammatically incorrect) "Why? One possibility is that it relates to the words themselves; perhaps the word white and the word house must always come in this order. But if we were to explain in this way we would need separate explanations for a very large number of words, including the words in the sentences (3)-(6), which show the same pattern. (3) He read the new book. (Grammatically correct) (4) He read the book new. (Grammatically incorrect) (5) We fed some hungry dogs. (Grammatically correct) (6) We fed some dogs hungry. (Grammatically incorrect) "These sentences show us that whatever principle gives us the order of words, it must be based on the class of word, not on a specific word. The words white, new, and hungry are all a class of word called an adjective; the words house, book, and dogs are all a class of word called a noun. We could formulate a generalization, which holds true for the sentences in (1)-(6): (7) An adjective cannot immediately follow a noun. "A generalization [as with sentence 7] is an attempt to explain the principles by which a sentence is put together. One of the useful consequences of a generalization is to make a prediction which can then be tested, and if this prediction turns out to be wrong, then the generalization can be improved. . . . The generalization in (7) makes a prediction which turns out to be wrong when we look at sentence (8). (8) I painted the house white. (Grammatically correct) "Why is (8) grammatical while (2) is not, given that both end on the same sequence of house white? The answer is the most important thing to know about sentence structure: The grammaticality of a sentence depends not on the sequence of words but how the words are combined into phrases."—Nigel Fabb Spears, Margaret J. "Phrase Structure in Natural Language." Kluwer, 1990Robbins, Lara. "Grammar and Style at Your Fingertips." Alpha Books, 2007Fernández, Eva M. and Cairns, Helen Smith. "Fundamentals of Psycholinguistics." Wiley-Blackwell, 2011Berg, Thomas. "Structure in Language: A Dynamic Perspective." Routledge, 2009Hurford, James R. "The Origins of Grammar: Language in the Light of Evolution II." Oxford University Press, 2011Fabb, Nigel. "Sentence Structure, Second Edition." Routledge, 2005

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