

An Introductory English Grammar

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The fourth lecture : Basic Sentence Patterns

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Basic Sentence Patterns



Pattern 3: N1 be N1

Example: My brother is a doctor

Here, in this pattern, the superscript after the second N means the same referent as N1. This means that both “my brother” and “a doctor” have the same referent. In other words, they have mutual relationship.

Basic Sentence Patterns

- ❖ The meaning of the verb to be in this pattern is “ be identified as”
- ❖ The meaning of the subject (N1) is that which is identified.
- ❖ The meaning of the subject complement (N1) (a doctor) is that which identifies the subject.

Basic Sentence Patterns

Examples:

That is she.

It's me.

That is mine.

It was they.

Those coeds must be roommates.

Pattern 4: N LV AJ

The acrobat seems young

In this pattern, the verb is called linking verb, as it links the adjective with the subject.

Examples:

The cyclist appears wary.

The physicist grew sleepy.

Basic Sentence Patterns

- ❖ Similar to pattern 1, the adjective in this pattern has the meaning of “that which describes the subject”.
- ❖ The subject has the grammatical meaning of “that which is described”
- ❖ The grammatical meaning of the verb “may be described as”

Basic Sentence Patterns

- Pattern 5: N1 LV N1

My sister remained an outstanding student.

The two superscripts show that both nouns have the same referent.

Basic Sentence Patterns

- ❖ Similar to pattern 3, N1 in the third position in this pattern has the meaning of “that which identifies the subject”.
- ❖ The subject has the grammatical meaning of “that which is identified”
- ❖ The grammatical meaning of the verb “may be identified as”