

# **GST102 USE OF ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS II**

# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ WEEK SIX
  
- ▶ THE CONSTITUENT OF THE SENTENCE

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- ▶ English is a language that is structured in its own peculiar way.
- ▶ The language has many parts. These include: nouns, verbs, adjectives adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, determiners, pronouns.
- ▶ Determiners are a small class of words that occur before nouns or before adjectives.
- ▶ Examples of determiners are numerals, demonstratives, articles etc.

- ▶ Numerals: 1, 2, 3 etc.
- ▶ Ordinal: first, second, third
- ▶ Demonstratives: this, that, these, those
- ▶ Articles are small but important components of the English language
- ▶ Indefinite: a, an
- ▶ Definite: the

# CONCORD AND SENTENCES

- ▶ Agreement of words with one another in gender, number, person or case in a sentence
- ▶ Subject verb agreement

I am	We are	
She is	They are	
You are	You are	
It is	They are	

# Pronoun antecedent agreement

- ▶ **Mary and John** are dancing now, **they** will swim later (compound subject)
- ▶ **Mary** is dancing now, **she** will swim later (single subject)
- ▶ **The dog** is barking loudly because **it** is hungry
- ▶

# Person

- ▶ First person: I
- ▶ Second person: You
- ▶ Third person: She
  
- ▶ The person also determines the verb
- ▶ am (used with I in the present tense)
- ▶
- ▶ is (used with he, she, it and singular nouns, in the present tense)
  
- ▶ 'are' is used with plurals and with you (2nd person singular) in the present tense)

# Sentence

- ▶ Sentences in English belong to four main types according to grammatical structure.
- ▶ Statements (assertive sentences)
- ▶ Examples
  - ▶ (i) Work is necessary to keep the world going. (affirmative)
  - ▶ (ii) We do not generally speak to farmers 'growing' animals. (negative)



- ▶ Questions (interrogative sentences)
- ▶ Examples
  - ▶ (i) Why are you crying?
  - ▶ (ii) Have they come back?
  - ▶ (iii) Am I responsible for your failure in the course?
  - ▶ (iv) Was she in the house when you left?
- ▶ Commands (imperatives)
- ▶ Examples
  - ▶ (i) Pick up the book from the floor.
  - ▶ (ii) Read hard for your examination.
  - ▶ (iii) Close the door.

- ▶ An Exclamatory sentence: This is a sentence that ends with an exclamation mark (!)
- ▶ Examples:
  - ▶ I have won the prize!
  - ▶ Hold the knife well!
  - ▶ Oh dear!
  - ▶ Who goes there!
  - ▶ Feed the baby now!

▶ English sentences are also looked at from another perspective. This is in terms of their complexities:

▶ simple sentences:

▶ They have only one subject, and only one predicate

▶ Examples:

▶ (i) Bolanle is a girl.

▶ (ii) The dog is hungry.

▶ (iii) I am busy now

▶ (iv) Chinyere is a beautiful girl.

▶ (v) Yusuf is intelligent.

- ▶ Compound sentences:
- ▶ Compound sentences have more than one subject and more than one predicate, in some cases.
- ▶ Examples:
  - ▶ (i) Bolanle and Mary are going to the library.
  - ▶ (ii) They went to the market to buy some fruits
  - ▶ (iii) John came home and Mary saw him.

- ▶ Complex sentences:
- ▶ Complex sentences have clauses embedded or put inside the subject of the sentences.
- ▶ (i) The man that came here yesterday was the former President of Nigeria.
- ▶ (ii) This is the laptop which my son bought for me.
- ▶ (iii) The baby is crying because she is hungry
- ▶ (iv) Whenever she comes tell her I am sleeping

- ▶ Compound complex sentences:
- ▶ (i) John and Mary whom you gave lift to and some food items have finally taken us to court.
- ▶ (ii) Without any doubt, the agreement and the violation of it, take us to the condition that we find ourselves now.
- ▶ In all these sentences, we have compound subjects (John and Mary) and the agreement and the violation) and complex embeddings (e.g. to the condition that we find ourselves.).

# TENSES

- ▶ Tenses are very important in written and spoken English, they regulate time and the aspectual forms of English
- ▶ Aspectual forms suggest whether an event is going on, is completed or will be completed
- ▶ **Simple present tense:** has -s, -es added to the verb when there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular subject
- ▶ **The past infinitive or the simple past tense:** events that take place in the past and are not related to the speaker's present. You add -d, -ed to the verb

- ▶ Or 't' to the verb (mean–meant)
- ▶ Or by changing some words of the original verb (eat–ate)
- ▶ Or by not changing the verb at all (burst–burst, put–put)
- ▶ Did –use the simple present form of the main verb
- ▶ **Past continuous tense**–this tense emphasis the continuity of events in the past. It is formed by using the verbs 'was' or 'were' with the –ing form of the verb



# GERUNDS AND PARTICIPLES

- ▶ A gerund is a verbal noun, that is, a noun which describes an action or experience and has the form of a present participle (the *ing* form).
- ▶ It is interesting to note that gerunds can stay in different positions in a sentence to perform different functions
- ▶ The different positions that gerunds take are illustrated here:
- ▶ Flying can be dangerous. (beginning of a sentence)
- ▶ I like flying planes (used as complement).
- ▶ I saw him when he was flying. (used as a verb complement).

# Participles

- ▶ Participles are the two forms of a verb called *present participle* and *past participle* which may be used in compound forms of the verb or as adjectives.

▶ Present	Past	Participle
▶ go	went	gone
▶ see	saw	seen
▶ do	did	done
▶ consider	considered	considered

- ▶ As a user of English, you must always get your participle correctly.

- ▶ The common errors linked to the use of participle in Nigeria is the omission of the participle in spoken or written English and the confusion between the participle and the past tense.

# THE ACTIVE, PASSIVE AND THE INFINITIVE

- ▶ Active voice is a form of direct statement whereby the subject of a sentence takes an object without any inversion
- ▶ The interchange of the subject to object and object to subject position changes active sentences to *passive sentences*:
- ▶ *by* is used for the passive sentences.
- ▶ The boy killed the rat (active)
- ▶ The rat was killed by the boy (passive)

- ▶ To infinitive
- ▶ Bare infinitive
  
- ▶ Non-finite Verbals
- ▶ A finite verb changes its form according to tense and subject. For example, the verb 'be' has the finite forms *am, is, are, was, were* and the non-finite forms *being* and *been*
- ▶ The forms of the verb that can be used after other verbs and with *to* before it (such as *go in I can go, I want to go, and it is important to go*) is called the infinitive.

# MODAL AUXILIARIES

- ▶ can, may, must, ought to, should, would.
- ▶ They can be used in the present and past tenses i.e. *can/could*,
- ▶ *will/would*, *may/might*.
- ▶ Can–It means, 'know how to', 'be able to'.
- ▶ It can also mean 'be allowed to' (by rules).
- ▶ It is also used in the sense of 'have permission to'; e.g., Can we
- ▶ May–It can mean 'be likely to' (possibility).
- ▶ (ii) It can also mean 'have permission to, be allowed to'.
- ▶ Must– to do with certainty
- ▶ Would– (a request)
- ▶ *should* –(It is my suggestion/advice.)
- ▶ *ought to* –(It is your duty).

# ▶ **END OF WEEK SIX LECTURE**

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