

Grammar Questions

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By Philip A. Robbins

“Free Grammar Questions” is a list of 72 questions covering almost every aspect of English grammar and is based on my study system: The Question System. This system was the subject of my book *How to Make Better Grades*, published by Grosset & Dunlap in 1961. It was a system I devised for learning and retaining entire textbooks. How do we use the system? It’s easy.

Procedure

1. Read the question.
2. Read and learn the answer on the answer sheet with the number corresponding to the number of the question.
3. Repeat the process with all of the questions.

REVIEW

4. Review the questions giving the answers silently to yourself. There is no need to write the answers.
5. If you have forgotten the answer to some questions, jot down the numbers of the questions and relearn the answers when you have finished reviewing.

Notice that this process is extremely efficient. All of your time is spent learning information that you did not know or had forgotten. You do not spend time learning material that you already know or unnecessarily writing answers.

There is one other problem that you will face. You may not understand the answer to the question, and that could be for a number of reasons. You may not have studied the concept in class or have familiarity with it. The answers on the answer sheet are short and have a limited number of examples.

This problem is easily solved. You need to get a reference with more in depth information to help you understand the concept. That could be any grammar book, or it could mean typing the name of the concept (“appositive,” “adverb clause,” “pattern sentence,” etc.) on a search engine such as Google or Yahoo. Along with examples learn any mandatory punctuation if it is required.

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1. What is a noun?
2. What is a concrete noun, and what are three examples?
3. What is an abstract noun, and what are some examples?
4. What is a common noun, and what are some examples?
5. What is a proper noun, and what are some examples?
6. What do we always do when writing a proper noun?
7. What two things do verbs show?
8. What are some examples of action verbs, and what is the most common state of being verb?
9. What do we mean by the tense of a verb, and what are the three basic tenses?
10. What is an example of each tense of a verb?
11. What two things can adjectives do, and what are some examples of each type?
12. What two kinds of words do adjectives modify, and what is an example of each?
13. Are articles classified as adjectives, and what are the three articles?
14. What four things do adverbs show or tell us?
15. What are two examples of each of the four things that adverbs tell us?
16. How may many adjectives be changed into adverbs, and what are three examples?
17. What may we say about the placement of an adverb in a sentence?
18. What is the normal placement of an adjective in a sentence?
19. What is the purpose of conjunctions?
20. What are the three most common coordinating conjunctions?
21. What kind of elements must coordinating conjunctions connect?
22. What is this rule called?
23. Give an example of the use of a coordinating conjunction with two adjectives, two nouns, two verbs, and two adverbs?
24. What is a preposition, and what are some examples?
25. How are prepositions found in a sentence?
26. What two parts make up a prepositional phrase, and where is each part found?
27. What do prepositional phrases have in common with adverbs with regard to their placement in a sentence?
28. What two parts of speech does a preposition usually relate a noun or pronoun to?
29. What are four examples of prepositional phrases?
30. What do pronouns do, and why do we use them?
31. What is an antecedent of a pronoun?
32. What is an interjection, and how is it usually punctuated?
33. What are some examples of interjections?
34. How may other parts of speech be used as interjections?
35. What do we mean by a pattern sentence?
36. What two elements must a sentence have, and what is the simplest pattern sentence?
37. If we know the verb, what question do we ask to find the subject?
38. What are three examples of the S-V pattern?
39. In the S-V-O pattern what do the O stand for?
40. What is a direct object and how can we recognize it?
41. What two parts of speech may a direct object be?
42. What are three examples of the S-V-O pattern?

43. May the direct object represent the subject, and what is an example?
44. What is the S-V-IO-O pattern, and what is an example?
45. What do we mean by an indirect object, and what test can we use for it?
46. What are three examples of the S-V-IO-O pattern?
47. What type of verb do the S-V, S-V-O, and S-V-IO-O patterns have?
48. What is the S-LV-Adj pattern, and what is an example?
49. What is a linking verb, and what are several verbs that may be used as linking verbs?
50. What kind of verbs is often used as linking verbs?
51. In the S-LV-Adj pattern what does the adjective modify?
52. What is the S-LV-N pattern, and what is an example?
53. In reality what is the N, or how is it related to the subject?
54. What are three examples of S-LV-N sentences?
55. What is a compound sentence, and what is an example?
56. What are two ways of connecting independent clauses in a compound sentence?
57. What is a clause?
58. May the clauses in a compound sentence be of different patterns, and what are two examples?
59. How do we punctuate a compound sentence when using a coordinating conjunction?
60. How do we punctuate a compound sentence when we do not use a coordinating conjunction?
61. What is a subordinate or dependent clause, and how may we turn a simple sentence into a dependent clause?
62. What are some examples of subordinate clauses?
63. To have a complex sentence what two kinds of clauses must we have, and what is an example?
64. What are adjective clauses, and what are three examples?
65. What are noun clauses, and what are three examples?
66. How may noun clauses be used?
67. What are the three verbals?
68. What is a participle, what is a participial phrase, and what are some examples?
69. How may we use a participial phrase in a sentence, and what are some examples?
70. What are gerunds, how may we use them, and what are some examples?
71. What are appositives, why do we use them, how are they punctuated, and what are some examples?
72. What are infinitives, how may they be used, and what are some examples?

1. A word that names a person, place or thing.
2. A noun made of physical matter; you can usually see or feel it.
3. A noun that is not made of physical matter. Examples: love, hate, idea.
4. Name of a class or category of persons, places, or things. Examples: boy, chair, river, city.
5. The name of a specific person, place, or thing. Examples: John, Los Angeles, Nile River.
6. Capitalize the first letter of the noun.
7. Action or state of being.
8. Action verbs: run, drive, think, hear, care, forget. State of being verb: to be.
9. The time of the action or state of being. Basic tenses: past, present, future.
10. Examples of tenses: past - ran; present – run(s); future -shall or will run.
11. 1. Describe or tell what kind of. 2. Limit. Descriptive: beautiful, red, angry. Limiting: one, two, first, second, many, several, few.
12. Nouns and pronouns. Examples: yellow house, angry man; she is angry.
13. They are limiting adjectives. The three articles are: a, an, the.
14. Adverbs tell how, when, where, and to what extent.
15. How: quickly, humorously. When: yesterday, soon. Where: down, across. To what extent: very, rather, somewhat.
16. By adding "-ly." Examples: rapid, rapidly; instant, instantly; humorous, and humorously.
17. An adverb may be placed in many areas of the sentence.
18. In front of the noun it modifies.
19. To connect two words, two phrases, or two clauses.
20. Common coordinating conjunctions: and, but, or.
21. They connect like elements, i.e., two subjects, to verbs, two adjectives, too prepositional phrases, two clauses, etc.
22. Parallelism. Elements are said to be in parallel.
23. The house is green and red. The boy and the girl ran. The boy ran and jumped. The girl typed quickly but accurately.
24. Prepositions show the relationship between a noun or pronoun and some other word in the sentence, usually a noun or verb. Examples: in the pool, across the street, over the rainbow
25. In a phrase
26. Preposition and object of the preposition. A prepositional phrase begins with the preposition and ends with the object of the preposition.
27. They are placed in many different areas of the sentence.
28. Verb or another noun.
29. Examples: across the ocean, into the clouds, of the farmer, by the stream.
30. Take the place of the noun. To void constant repetition of nouns.
31. An antecedent is a word that a pronoun refers back to and is the same thing as the pronoun.
32. A word that shows emotion and is usually punctuated with an exclamation point (!).
33. Examples: Oh! Alas! Help! Stop!
34. By putting an exclamation point after them.
35. A pattern sentence is the normal and definite arrangement of the main elements of a sentence, i.e., subject, verb, direct object, indirect object, predicate adjective, predicate nominative, etc.
36. Subject and verb (predicate). Simplest pattern is S-V.
37. Who or what the verb?
38. Examples of SV: The boy ran. The house burned fiercely. John wept.
39. Direct object
40. It receives the action of the verb. Ask, "Does anything receive the action of the verb?"
41. Noun or pronoun
42. The boy hit the ball. Mary studied geography. The woman mopped the floor.
43. Yes. Examples: He found himself surrounded by the enemy.

44. S-V-IO-O pattern has a subject, action verb, indirect object, and a direct object.
45. A noun or pronoun that indirectly receives the action and is placed between the verb and direct object.
Test for indirect object: Turn the indirect object into a prepositional phrase using "to" or "for" and place it after the direct object.
46. Examples: The hat cost Don a dollar. John sent Mary our present. The teacher gave the class new books.
47. Action verbs
48. The S-LV-Adj pattern has a subject, linking verb, and a predicate adjective modifying the subject.
Example: The house is beautiful.
49. A linking verb is usually a form of the verb "to be" and maybe a verb related to the five senses – taste, sight, smell, hearing, and touch.
50. Verbs related to the physical senses.
51. The subject.
52. The S-LV-N pattern has a subject, linking verb, and a predicate nominative; the noun (N) is the same thing is the subject. Example: The man is a doctor.
53. In reality the N is the same thing as the subject.
54. Examples: The man is a teacher. Joe is a good student. The sun is the source of most of our energy.
55. A compound sentence is two or more independent clauses connected by a coordinating conjunction or semicolon. Example: Joe went to Chicago, and he got a job.
56. A coordinating conjunction such as (and, but, or). A semicolon (;).
57. Any group of words having a subject and a predicate (verb).
58. Yes, any of the patterns. Example: The man is a doctor (S-LV-N), and he performs operations (S-V-O).
59. Put a comma before the coordinating conjunction connecting the two clauses.
60. Put a semicolon between the independent clauses.
61. A subordinate or dependent clause is one that will not stand alone.
62. Examples: When the boy went home, Before the rain started, Because he ate too fast,
63. A dependent clause and an independent clause. Example: When we returned from school, the house was locked,
64. Adjective clauses described nouns or pronouns and usually begin with who, whom, whose, which, or that. Examples: which has no name on it; that nobody could identify; whose foot was injured; whom the voters elected.
65. For noun clauses are used to take the place of nouns in a sentence and may be either subjects or objects. Examples: That the plane landed safely (Subject) is a miracle. We wondered why the tree died (Direct Object). That is what the newspapers reported (Predicate Nominative).
66. A noun clause may be used as a subject or object.
67. The three verbals are participles, gerunds and infinitives.
68. They verb form used as an adjective and usually ending in -ing or -ed. The participial phrase is a phrase beginning with a participle. Examples: talking about high prices, running across the field, sitting in a puddle, parked by the curb.
69. A participial phrase may be used to describe a noun in a sentence. Examples: Crossing the goal line, Bob made the winning touchdown. Climbing the ladder, the man struck his head on the ceiling. Parked by the curb, the car got a ticket.
70. Gerunds are verb forms ending in -ing used as nouns. They may be used as subjects or objects.
Examples: Swimming is fun. Speeding is dangerous. I hate boating.
71. A noun or pronoun and related words used after a noun or pronoun to further explain the first one. We use them to give more information about a noun. They are set off with commas. Examples: Mr. Jones, my teacher, is going on vacation. Mr. Horton, John's father, supervises summer camp.
72. An infinitive is the base form of a verb usually beginning with the word "to." An infinitive phrase may be used as a noun, adjective, or adverb. Examples: To be ask to a party makes a person proud. (Subject) He does not like to express his opinions. (Direct object) The students come to learn Russian. (Adverb)