

University of Mentouri Constantine 1

Faculty of Arts and Languages

Department of Arabic Language

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Courses of the Second Semester

Lesson 03: Modifiers

Modifiers are words that are meant to provide additional descriptions to the different components of a sentence, thus providing more information. They consist mainly of **adjectives** and **adverbs**.

Adjectives can modify either **nouns or pronouns** within a sentence, as an example:

- This **smart student** knows the answer.

- **He** is **smart**.

There are two categories of adjectives, which are commonly used:

Attributive Adjectives, which proceed the noun (are put before it), like: The **blue** car is fast.

Predicative Adjectives, which come after the noun, like: That car **is blue**.

There is always a **stative verb** placed before a predicative adjective, for example:

The car **looks beautiful** - The flower **smells nice** - It **sounds great** - My mother **is amazing**

The Comparative and Superlative forms of adjectives are often used to weigh up/compare individuals or things side by side.

When put in the comparative form, most **one-syllable** adjectives take (**er**) at the end.

When put in the superlative form, most **one-syllable** adjectives take (**est**) at the end.

For example:

smart → smarter **than** → **the** smartest

tall → taller **than** → **the** tallest

Longer adjectives, however, are often preceded by **Degree Determiners** (“**more**” in the comparative form, and “**most**” in the superlative form **≠** or “**less**” in the comparative f. and “**least**” in the superlative f.)

For example:

valuable → **less** valuable **than** → **the least** valuable

beautiful → **more** beautiful **than** → **the most** beautiful

There are a few exceptions to this rule, which include **irregular adjectives**. Some of these words completely change their forms in both comparative and superlative forms. The most commonly known ones are:

good → **better than** → **the best** bad → **worse than** → **the worst**

far → **further/ farther than** → **the furthest/farthest**

Note: **farther/farthest** are often used to indicate a literal, physical distance, for example:

- The supermarket is **farther** than the grocery store

Further/furthest are, on the other hand, mainly used to indicate a figurative distance, for example:

- He began his speech without any **further** greetings.

Adverbs can describe either a verb, and adjective, and adverb, or even an entire sentence.

Many adverbs are formed by adding “**ly**” to adjectives example: bad (adj) → **badly** (adv)

Except some adverbs like: good (adj) → well (adv) fast (adj) → fast (adv) “remains the same.”

Examples of the different uses of adverbs:

1/ Adverbs and verbs

-He **plays** football **beautifully**.

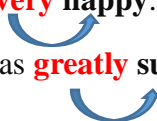


This type of adverb modifies **action verbs** only (**Not stative verbs such as: feels, tastes, is, sounds....***)

2/ Adverbs and adjectives

-He is **very** happy.

-She was **greatly** surprised.



This type of adverb is usually used to add a **degree of intensity** to the adjective.

3/ Adverbs and other adverbs

-He runs **extremely fast**. (fast here is an adverb.)

-He is doing **surprisingly well** in the exam.

Adverbs that describes other adverbs are **less frequently used**.

4/ Adverbs and sentences

-**Fortunately**, the cat landed on his feet.

Adverbs that describe the entire sentence, can be either put by the beginning or the end of the sentence.

Some of the examples of adverbs, which describe an entire sentence are **generally, fortunately, interestingly, and accordingly...**

Lesson 04: Prepositions (at,in,on,by)

Prepositions are words, which indicate **when and where** something happens, or is in relation to something else.

Examples:

-I study **at** 8 o' clock. → **at** here is used as a **preposition of time**.

-I study **at** the university. → **at** here is used as a **preposition of place**.

At, in, on, by are some of the most commonly used prepositions in the English language, they can be both used as **prepositions of time or of place** depending on the context of the sentence.

1/When Used as Prepositions of Time

AT

-I wake up **at** 6:30.

-I sleep **at** bedtime.

At is used to indicate a **specific point in time. (usually a clock time.)**

-He will leave **at** the end of April.

At can also indicate a **specific point at the beginning or the end of a period.**

IN

-I was born **in** 1980.

-She took a vacation **in** June.

-I will back **in** a week.

- He will be there **in** a minute.

In indicates **unprecise, estimated periods of time.**

ON

-I was born **on** the 5th of July.

-She is working **on** Monday.

-They exchanged gifts **on** Christmas day. **(The 25th of December.)**

On indicates **dates, days of the week, and special days.**

By

-I will finish my homework **by** the end of the week **(deadline= the end of the time given)**

By indicates the time before or on **deadline**.

2/When Used as Prepositions of Place

AT

-She works **at** the hospital.

-I live **at** 12 Park Road (**Specific address (street, neighborhood.)**)

At indicates a **specific point in space**, which could be a specific location, an address on the map or a public place (like; school, hospital, museum, theatre...)

IN

-I have my phone **in** my pocket.

-I live **in** Constantine.

-The house is located **in** the mountains.

In both of the second and third example, the edges are not, concrete visible limits but only seen on the map.)

In indicate a location inside **certain edges/boundaries (both visible and invisible.)**

ON

-Put the pen **on** the desk.

-I am **on** the bus (=aboard the bus.)

-The Ship is sailing **on** the sea (floating.)

-I live **on** the 2nd floor.

On indicates a location over a **flat surface**.

BY

-He is waiting for you **by** the Blue house.

-Put your things **by** the door.

By indicates that something is **next to/close by/near** a certain location (**not a specific point.**)

Lesson 05: Conjunctions

Definition:

A conjunction is a word, which connects parts of a sentence. It can connect **words**, as well as **clauses**.

There are two types of Conjunctions:

1/Coordinating Conjunctions

2/Subordinating Conjunctions

1/Coordinating Conjunctions:

There are 7 Coordinating Conjunctions in English: **AND, BUT, NOR, OR, YET, SO, FOR**

They are used to connect words and **independent** clauses.

Examples:

Case 1:

-Aymen's house is **beautiful and spacious**.

-He likes both **fish and chicken**.

-Do you want **milk or coffee**?

Rule 1: when a conjunction connects **two words** we do **not** put a comma (,) between them, as such:

word 1 and word 2.

Case 2:

-I need you to buy **sugar, flour, butter, Jam, and Vanilla** extract for the cake I'm baking.

-I am only available on **Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays**.

Rule 2: When there is a list of more than 2 words (a list of items), we put the comma between the words and only use the conjunction (**and**) between the last 2 words, as such:

(item 1, item 2,....., item 8 and item 9.)

Case 3:

-I like orange juice, **but** I prefer coffee better.

Independent clause 1

Independent clause 2

-He raced his brother, **and** he won.

-I am not hungry, **so** I will just have a salad.

Rule 3: When a Conjunction connects **two independent clauses (two complete sentences)**, A comma (,) must always be put **after the first clause and before the conjunction**, as such:

Independent sentence 1, and Independent sentence 2.

2/Subordinating Conjunctions:

There are so many subordinating conjunctions in English. The most commonly used ones are:

Because, Due to, In order to, Provided that, Which, While, When, Until, Since, Although, When, Before, After, Even if...

-Subordinating Conjunctions are used to connect **dependent clauses** with **independent clauses** (or vice versa.)

Examples:

-After we studied English, we enjoyed a little break.

Dependent clause

Independent clause

-We enjoyed a little break **after** we studies English

Independent clause

Dependent clause

Rule 4: If the sentence **starts with S.Conjunction**, the comma is put **after the dependent clause**. If the S.Conjunction is written **between the two clauses (before the dependent clause)** the comma is **omitted (it is not put)**, as such:

When Dependent Clause, Independent Clause.

Independent Clause **when** Dependent Clause. **(no comma ,)**