

SENTENCE READING GUIDE BASED ON PARTS OF SPEECH

Sentences are basic units of communication. As you read sentences, take special note of the parts of speech they contain. Then, use this guide to work through the sentence carefully and critically.

If you use a printed Bible, you can also fold this guide along the two black center lines to use it as a bookmark.

Nouns. What does the noun mean? What does it refer to?

Pronouns. What does the pronoun refer to?

Adjectives and adverbs. What does the adjective or adverb mean? What noun or verb does it modify? How does it qualify that noun or verb?

- Positive (a good disciple)
- Comparative (a better disciple)
- Superlative (the best disciple)
- Elative (a very good disciple)

Verbs. What does the verb mean? Is it an infinitive (to) or a participle (-ing)? If not, think about the verb's:

- Voice.
 - Active (it makes)
 - Passive (it is made)
- Mood.
 - Imperative (make, let it make)
 - Indicative (it makes)
 - Optative (may it make)
 - Subjunctive (it might make)
- Tense, time, and aspect. When does the verb's action or state occur? How is this action or state portrayed?

Conjunctions. What kind of conjunction is it? Clarifying the kind of conjunction will help in understanding the words, phrases, or clauses it relates.

- Alternative (or)
- Ascensive (even)
- Causal (because, since)

- Comparative (just as, thus, in this way)
- Concessive (although)
- Conditional (if)
- Connective (and, also)
- Content (that)
- Contrastive (but, rather, however)
- Correlative (both ... and, either ... or)
- Emphatic (indeed)
- Epexegetical (that, such that)
- Exceptive (unless)
- Explanatory (for, namely)
- Inferential (therefore, then)
- Local (where)
- Purpose (so that, with the purpose of)
- Result (so that, with the result that)
- Temporal (as, until, when, yet)
- Transitional (now, then)

Prepositions. What kind of preposition is it? Clarifying the kind of preposition will help in understanding the words, phrases, or clauses it relates.

- Advantage (for, for the sake of, on behalf of)
- Agency (by, from, through)
- Association (with)
- Cause (because of, on account of, on the basis of)
- Comparison (beyond, more than)
- Disadvantage (against)
- Distributive (in the midst of, each, apiece)
- Exchange (for, as)
- Instrumental (by, with)
- Manner (with)
- Means (by, from, through)
- Opposition (against, contrary to)
- Partitive (of)
- Purpose (for, in order to, to, for the purpose of)
- Rank (before)
- Reference (concerning, with reference to, with respect to)
- Result (so that, with the result that)

- Separation (from)
- Source (from, out of)
- Spatial (against, around, at, before, behind, by, down from, in, into, on, over, through, to, up to, with)
- Standard (according to the standard of)
- Substitution (in place of, instead of)
- Temporal (about, after, at, before, during, for, from, in, throughout, toward, when)

Interjections. What does the interjection add to the sentence? (emotion, emphasis, formality, solemnity)

Note: The parenthetical examples here are illustrative only and not exhaustive.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

I've geared this guide most toward English Bible readers. But in doing so, I've tried to incorporate as best as possible relevant interpretive categories from the following resources.

Wallace, Daniel B. Greek Grammar beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Waltke, Bruce K., and Michael P. O'Connor. An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Grand Rapids: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

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