

# JSS2 FIRST TERM ENGLISH STUDIES

## Week 1

### Contents:

#### Oral Skills: Vowel Sounds

#### Grammar: Nouns

#### Oral Skills: Vowel Sounds

#### The central vowel /ə/

This short sound is very common, It only occurs in unstressed syllables (ones said with almost no force). It is the vowel you normally hear in these common words: a, an, the, and, but, of. When you have to make this sound, your mouth should NOT be wide open.

Read the following words and phrases aloud. The unstressed syllables are shown in italics, and all contain /ə/:

*a*gain      *a*bout      *a*lone      *a*way  
Teacher    Mother    Tailor      Neighbour  
*a*n egg    *the* book    *a* glass *of* water  
*a*t school    *a*t home    Poor *but* happy

Note that when *the* comes before another word beginning with a vowel, the sound is no longer /ə/ but /i/. Say the following:

He mixed the eggs together and poured them into the oil.

Vowel sounds present a considerable challenge to non-native speakers. Spoken English has an unusually high number of vowel sounds – from **5 written vowels** (a, e, i, o, u) we produce **19 vowel sounds**

## Types of Vowel Sounds

A vowel sound is made by shaping the air as it leaves the mouth. There are four types of vowel in English:

- - - Short monothongs (2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12 in the diagram)
    - Long monothongs (1, 6, 8, 9, 11 in the diagram)
    - Diphthongs (13 – 19 in the diagram)
    - Weak vowels (1, 2, 5, 9 in the diagram)

## Grammar: Nouns

A Noun is a name of a person, animal, place or things.

### There are four kinds of nouns:

1. Common Nouns
2. Proper Nouns
3. Concrete Nouns
4. Abstract Nouns

#### a. Common Nouns

A **common noun** names a class of similar things (chair, box), and not an individual member of a specified group of people or things. We do not capitalize the first letter of a common noun unless it is the first word in a sentence.

### Common nouns are names of people, things, animals and places, etc.

Examples:

- **People** – aunt, boy, butcher, carpenter, cousin, father, girl, lady, man, mother, tailor, woman
- **Things** – bicycle, book, car, computer, dress, hammer, key, pencil, ship, table, vase, wallet
- **Animals** – armadillo, baboon, bee, caterpillar, cow, dog, eagle, fish, monkey, pig, snake, turkey
- **Places** – airport, beach, bullring, cemetery, church, country, hospital, library, mall, park, restaurant, zoo

#### b. Proper Nouns

A **proper noun** is a special name of a person, place, organization, etc. We spell a proper noun with a capital letter. Proper nouns also refer to times or to dates in the calendar.

We can use plurals for proper nouns in exceptional cases.

- There are **three Johns** in my class.

We can also use **the, an, or a** for a proper noun in special circumstances.

- This is no longer the London I used to live in.

**Proper nouns are names of people, places, organization, etc.**

Examples:

- **People** – Joke Thompson, Barack Obama
- **Places** – Jump Street, Museum of Modern Art, Sahara Desert
- **Things** – Financial Times, Eiffel Tower
- **Organization** – International Labour Organization, Red Cross, United Nations
- **Animals** – King Kong, Lassie
- **Times and dates** – Sunday, April

## **b. Proper Nouns**

One of the problem with proper nouns is to know whether or not you should use **the** (definite article) with them. Here are some guidelines:

### **Without THE –**

- Names of people (with or without title) – Paul, Chief Mrs Busola, Dr Sunday, Bobola
- geographical features such as continents, countries, states, regions, cities, islands, mountains, lakes – Nigeria, Oregon, Everest, London
- Days of the week, months, festivals – Thursday, Easter, April
- Schools, colleges, universities – Government college Ketu, University of Abuja

### **With THE –**

- Groups of mountains or islands – the Himalayas
- Seas and Oceans – the Atlantic Ocean
- Descriptive titles – a) one in which only common nouns are used – the School of Agriculture. b) one that has a common noun preceding the particular name the University of Lagos

### c. Nouns: Concrete Noun

A **concrete noun** is something we see or touch. It is the opposite of an abstract noun. There are **countable concrete nouns** and **uncountable concrete nouns**

#### Countable and Uncountable

1. Common nouns are either Countable or Uncountable. Can you remember the rules for using each type? (Countable, but not uncountable nouns, (i) can be used in the plural as well as the singular, (ii) can be preceded by the indefinite article a(n). In the following list of common nouns, which ones are examples of which type?

road, wood, village, question, cupboard, electricity, newspaper, fuel, windscreen, box, blame, information, appointment.

2. Uncountable nouns often name a substance or abstract quality which cannot easily be separated into different parts. If we want to speak of a part of it, we need to use a Unit word (which is itself countable), followed by of, followed by the uncountable noun. For example: a cup of water, ten litres of kerosene, a bit of luck, a flash of lightning. Note that cigarette is countable, not uncountable, so it is wrong to say He was smoking a stick of cigarette; just say He was smoking a cigarette.

#### Practice

Certain nouns are sometimes countable, sometimes uncountable; and there is some difference in meaning. For example, man when uncountable means human beings in general; when countable it means the male of the human species. Give a list of countable and uncountable nouns you know.

### d. Abstract Nouns

An **abstract noun** is a quality or something that we can only think of rather than as something that we can see or touch, e.g. beauty, courage, friendship, intelligence, truth. We can form abstract nouns from common nouns (child – childhood); from verbs (know – knowledge); and from adjectives (happy – happiness).

#### Collective Nouns

Collective Nouns are words to represent a group of people, animals, or things. A **collective noun** is a name used for a number of people, animals or things that we group together and speak of as a whole

Common collective nouns

- An army of ants
- A flock of birds
- A flock of sheep
- A herd of deer
- A gang of thieves
- A pack of thieves
- A panel of experts
  
- A forest of trees
- A galaxy of stars
- A pack of cards

Collective nouns are nouns that in the singular refer to a collection of items: e.g. furniture, cutlery, equipment, alphabet, vocabulary e.t.c The first three of these should never be used in the plural.

The last two can be used in plural only if we are considering different languages. Use one of these words to fill the gaps below

1. They have filled their new house with some very nice \_\_\_\_\_
2. English and arabic are languages that use different \_\_\_\_\_
3. We can not eat our food because we have no \_\_\_\_\_
4. Our company's biggest problem is out of date \_\_\_\_\_
5. The English \_\_\_\_\_ contains 26 letters

A collective noun can take a singular or a plural verb.

The following nouns can be singular or plural. Viewed as a single unit, the noun takes a singular verb; regarded as a group of separate members or parts, it becomes a plural noun used with a plural verb.

Examples:

- The new **government has** helped my community.
- The **Government are** determined to keep inflation in check.

A collective noun treated as singular uses a singular possessive pronoun; a plural collective noun takes a plural possessive pronoun.

Examples:

- Our **team** has won **its** first trophy. (The singular possessive pronoun is **its**. The singular possessive pronoun **its** agrees with the singular collective noun **team**.)

- Our **team** are deciding on the strategy for **their** next game. (Plural possessive pronoun: **their**)

## Nouns: Singular and Plural

More words belong to the noun class than to any other class. This is because they are the names of people or things in our world.

1. Nouns are either Proper (the names of particular people or things) or Common (the general names of people or things). In the following list of nouns, which belong to each group?

James, mind, leaves, Okri, engine, Benue

Proper nouns are easy to identify because they begin with a capital letter.

2. Nouns have different Singular and Plural forms. Usually, -s or -es is added for the plural, but there are some irregular forms. In the following exercise, fill the gaps by giving the plural form of the nouns in brackets:

- The \_\_\_\_\_ (child) carried their \_\_\_\_\_ (plate) to the \_\_\_\_\_ (table)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Woman) generally have smaller \_\_\_\_\_ (foot) than \_\_\_\_\_ (man)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Goose) resemble \_\_\_\_\_ (duck) in appearance, but are bigger
- Many \_\_\_\_\_ (criterion) can be used to define success in life

3. Some nouns are plural only e.g. trousers, scissors, barracks, cattle. Some have the same form for both singular and plural, e.g. species, series. Quarter usually means 'one-fourth', but quarter means 'living area'. People can be singular or plural meaning 'ethnic group', 'nation', but in the plural it can also mean 'persons'. Funds just means 'money', but fund means 'money set aside for a special purpose'.

There are nouns that are always plural and take a plural verb:

Jeans, knickers, pants, pyjamas, shorts, tights, trousers, and underpants  
 Pincers, pliers, scissors, shears, tongs  
 Clogs, sandals, slippers, and sneakers  
 Glasses (spectacles), binoculars

Examples:

- **These trousers** are not mine.

- **Pliers are** a handy tool.
- My garden **shears trim** the hedge very well.
- My **glasses are** used only for reading.

“A pair of” can be used with the above plural nouns and take a singular verb.

- **This pair** of purple **trousers** does not match your yellow jacket.
- **These knives do not** cut well. **A new pair of** stainless steel **scissors is** what I need.

Other nouns that are always plural:

- Clothes: My **clothes need** to be washed but I don't have the time.
- Earnings: **Earnings** in the agricultural sector **have** increased by 5% in the fourth quarter.
- Cattle: **Cattle are** reared for their meat or milk.
- Police: **Police are** charging him with the murder of the princess.
- People: **People** in general are **not** very approachable. (**Peoples** when used in the plural (i.e. with '-s') refers to peoples from more than one race or nation, e.g. the peoples of Asia)
- Football team: **Liverpool are** a very successful football team. (But **Liverpool is** a great city.)

### **Nouns which are plural in form but take a singular verb**

The following plural nouns are used with a singular verb as they are treated as singular:

Athletics, economics, gymnastics, linguistics, mathematics, mechanics, news, numismatics, measles, mumps, physics, politics and pyrotechnics

- Economics: **Economics was** my favourite subject at school.
- News – The good **news is** that we have all been invited.
- Diseases such as mumps, measles, etc: An infectious illness, **mumps was** common among children.

Measurements and amounts that are considered as a single unit:

- **One hundred years is** a century.
- **Ten kilometres is** a long distance.
- **Twenty dollars is** not enough to buy a good shirt.
- **Seven days** in prison **is** all he got for shoplifting.

### **Skill Focus – Students' Problems with School work**

Students often complain about problems with school work. For example, look at the three problems Ali, Olu and Ada have below. Do you have any of these problems too?

Ali

Some books aren't so easy to read, and I find it quite hard to understand some of them.

Olu

I find there's too much reading to do. I can't keep up with it all.

Ada

I find that it's quite difficult to remember what we have read.

Maybe we have all of these problems to some extent! Let's look to each in turn:

### **Ali's problem: Understanding**

Many people confuse understanding a passage with understanding all the words in a passage. This is not always necessary. You can often understand the most important points without understanding every single word.

What should you do if you come across a new word, and you aren't sure what it means? Here are five tips:

- try to infer the meaning of the word from the way it is used
- then without wasting any more time, carry on reading. The word's meaning may become clear as you read on
- if necessary, come back to it later
- if you think that the word is unimportant, ignore it
- if you think it is important, jot it down on a piece of paper, and look it up later.

For example, look at the word 'infer' underlined above. Does this sentence mean

1. you should ignore strange words?
2. you should look them up in a dictionary at once?
3. you should try to guess the meaning?

This brings us at one more important point: get into the habit of talking about your studies with your friends. You will be surprised how talking about your work helps to increase your understanding of it!

### **Olu's Problem: Time**

If you are short of time for reading and studying, there may be two answers:

- Maybe you are not spending your study time efficiently – see below
- Maybe you have not organised your life to make time for important things like studying, relaxing, meeting your friends, and so on.



You need to keep a balance between the different important activities in your life. Spending too much time on any one thing, and not enough on others, is not good for anyone. To make sure you have a good balanced approach in life, you will find it helps to draw up a personal time table.

### **Ada's Problem: Remembering**

Good ways of remembering what we study include:

- Reading actively.
- Don't just try to memorise information – understand and think about it. Identify important information, and underline it in pencil. Make short notes of the most important points in a reading text.
- Talking about your studies: Explaining something you have learnt to someone who does not know about it can be a big help. As you explain it, you have to order your thoughts, and you arrive at new insights yourself too.
- Revising: Once you have made notes, that is not the end of the matter, however. It is important to read them through from time to time – and not only just before an examination. It pays to refresh your memory several times.
- Make sure that if you copy someone else's writing, you can read it.

### **Making notes**

Make short notes on this Skills focus box. If you like, begin as follows:

#### How to study

1. Understanding:

### **Assessment**

1. How many types of vowels are there in English language?———  
(A. Three B. Two C. Five D. Four)
2. Mention and explain the types of vowels that you know.
3. List and explain the four types of nouns that you know.
4. Explain the major difference between singular and plural nouns.

## **Week 2**

### **Contents:**

#### **Language Structure**

#### **Literature: Fiction and Non-fiction**

#### **Vocabulary: Word Families**

#### **Language Structure**

##### **A. The Parts of Speech**

Do you remember the parts of speech – the different classes we group words into? Here are some of them. Match them with their correct definitions:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| A pronoun is    | a naming word                              |
| A preposition   | a describing word                          |
| A verb is       | a word that can be used in place of a noun |
| A noun is       | relates a noun to other words              |
| An adjective is | a doing word                               |

Other classes are conjunctions (and, but, or, that), which link phrases together; and auxiliaries (may, will, can, should, etc). 'Auxiliary' means 'helping' and auxiliaries are really verbs which stand directly before other verbs and so 'help' them.

Other classes of words are articles (a, an, the) and quantifiers – words like some, many, all, which show the quantity or amount of something.

##### **B. Types of Sentence**

A statement can be a statement, a question, an order, or instruction, or an exclamation. Find two of each from this list:

1. Rain is vital for farmers
2. Where did the old woman come from?
3. What heavy rain!
4. Do you believe in rainmakers?
5. The old widow was very kind
6. How I wish it would rain soon!
7. Don't believe everything you read.
8. Look at that dark cloud!

### C. Sentence Structure

Most sentences types must have have a subject and a verb

For example: *Our team won*

Sometimes the verb has an auxiliary before it:

*Our team is winning*

(Here, 'is', which comes from the verb 'be', is an auxiliary.)

Often the verb is followed by an object:

*Our team won the match*

*Our team is winning the match.*

Sometimes the verb includes a negative form. These different types of statement are set out in Table 1:

SubjectDogs + Verbbark

SubjectCattle + VerbEat + ObjectGrass

SubjectMy brother + AuxiliaryHas + Verbpassed + ObjectThe exam

SubjectMy brother + AuxiliaryHas /+ NegativeNot + Verbpassed + ObjectThe exam

### D. Types of Subject

The subject of a sentence can be of any of the following:

- a common noun (with or without article, quantifiers, adjectives)
- a proper noun
- a pronoun

Make up sentences from the following table, and say what type of subject appears in each one:

Subject

Segun Has left school

Water Have died

They Was stolen

Amina Sells almost everything

All the goats Is necessary for life

Our shop Can speak French

Another type of subject is the *-ing* form of a verb, e.g *reading, playing, hawking.*

Here are some sentence examples:

*Reading improves the mind*  
*Playing daughts is popular in Nigeria*  
*Hawking in the streets is not good for school children*

### **E. Types of Object**

An object can be a proper noun, a pronoun, a common noun, and a noun with other words attached to it.

Find the different types of object in the table:

	Object
Segun met	Bola
They bought	A car
I didn't know	Him
He wore	The most beautiful agbada they had ever seen

An object can also be a *-ing* word, or *to* + infinitive. These objects usually follow verbs like *enjoy, like, avoid, finish, keep on*, etc

		Object
They	Enjoy	Playing football
They	Kept on	Dancing
I	Like	To dance
I	Hate	dancing

Make up some more similar sentences

### **F. Transitive and Intransitive Verbs**

We have to use an object after some verbs. For example, these verbs must be followed by an object:

beat, enjoy, hit, need, contain

So we can say:

*The Super Eagles beat Argentina*  
but not: *The Super Eagles beat.*

We call this kind of verb a transitive verb

Some verbs never take an object. For example: arrive, come, ache, do, sit down, sleep, rain

So we can say:  
They arrived a ten  
but not: They arrived the station at ten

We call this kind of verb an intransitive verb

A few verbs can be used transitively or intransitively. These include:

begin, drop, hurt, ring, open, win

So we can say:  
*They Super Eagles won*  
or: *The Super Eagles won the match*

### **G. Intransitive verbs + complement**

Some intransitive verbs are followed by a word or phrase – but we do not call it an object.

For example:

*My name is Segun*  
*My brother became a policeman*

Here we have the verb *is* (one of the forms of *be* followed by a noun (Segun) and the verb *became* followed by a noun phrase (*a policeman*).

We call such a noun or noun phrase the complement of the verb. This is because it is needed to complete the sentence. (It would not make sense to say *My brother became*).

### **H. Expressing Negation**

The most common way of expressing negation is by using the word *not*. The simplest sentences using *not* are with the verb *to be*.

*Kenya is in West Africa*  
→*Kenya is not in West Africa*

*That was an interesting story*  
→*That was not an interesting story*

*It often rains in June*  
→*It does not often rain in June*

*The chief welcomed the old woman*  
→*The chief did not welcome the old woman*

As you can see, with the Present Simple and the Past Simple Tenses, we use the present (*do, does*) or past (*did*) form of the verb *do* to help us. This is another example of an auxiliary verb.

Notice that in speech, we usually use short forms:

*Kenya is not in West Africa*  
→*Kenya isn't in West Africa.*

When there is already a helping verb, we do not need to use *do*:

*I have met Lucy Mokolade*  
→*I have not met Lucy Mokolade*

*Lucy could marry Moses*  
→ *Lucy could not marry Moses*

Practice

Turn these sentences into the negative in the same way, using either the long form or short form:

1. I have been to Kenya
2. Anthony has asked Lucy to marry him
3. Lucy has agreed to his proposal
4. She had known he was going to ask her
5. She had decided to give him an immediate answer
6. The woman could save Simbi
7. You can find Simbi on a map

Now practise conversations like these, first with your teacher, and then in pairs. Notice how we use *any* in question forms, and in negative answers:

WOMAN: Do you have any stew?

WIDOW: No, I haven't any stew, but I have some porridge.

There are several other ways of expressing negation. These words all have a negative meaning:

hardly (hardly ever)

scarcely (scarcely ever)

seldom (not often)  
rarely (almost never)  
never

They are used without *not*.

Practice

In pairs, change each of the following sentences in three different ways, using the words in italics. For example:

*John smokes. (not, never, hardly ever)*

*John doesn't smoke*

*John never smokes*

*John hardly ever smokes.*

1. Mary reads books (not, never, hardly ever)
2. Ibrahim watches TV (not, never, scarcely ever)
3. Emeka comes to football practice (rarely, seldom, never)
4. Bunmi goes to choir practice (rarely, hardly ever, scarcely ever)
5. The woman visited the town (seldom, never, hardly ever)

## **Literature: Fiction versus Non-fiction**

### **Fiction versus Non-fiction**

Texts are commonly classified as fiction or nonfiction. The distinction addresses whether a text discusses the world of the imagination (fiction) or the real world (nonfiction).

**Fiction:** poems, stories, plays, novels

**Nonfiction:** newspaper stories, editorials, personal accounts, journal articles, textbooks, legal documents

Fiction is commonly divided into three areas according to the general appearance of the text:

- stories and novels: prose—that is, the usual paragraph structure—forming chapters
- poetry: lines of varying length, forming stanzas
- plays: spoken lines and stage directions, arranged in scenes and acts

Other than for documentaries, movies are fiction because they present a “made up” story. Movie reviews, on the other hand, are nonfiction, because they discuss something real—namely movies.

Note that newspaper articles are nonfiction—even when fabricated. The test is **not** whether the assertions are true. Nonfiction can make false assertions, and often does. The question is whether the assertions **claim** to describe reality, no matter how speculative the discussion may be. Claims of alien abduction are classified as nonfiction, while “what if” scenarios of history are, by their very nature, fiction.

The distinction between fiction and nonfiction has been blurred in recent years. Novelists (writers of fiction) have based stories on real life events and characters (nonfiction), and historians (writers of nonfiction) have incorporated imagined dialogue (fiction) to suggest the thoughts of historical figures

### **Non-fiction: The Argument And The Meaning**

Non-fiction is fairly direct. The author of a work of nonfiction has specific information or ideas to convey. Authors of nonfiction generally come out and say what they have on their minds.

Non-fiction (as noted elsewhere , as well as below) is characterized by a claim of truth. Nonfiction can include a wide range of subjective forms of discussion:

- assertions of personal preferences or belief,
- appeals more to trust, faith, or personal values than scientific evidence or logical proof,
- subjective analysis of otherwise objective data,
- conclusions asserted with varying degrees of certainty.

Critical readers will recognize these subjective elements in seemingly objective presentations.

We read nonfiction for knowledge, new ideas, or to understand someone’s perspective on, or analysis of, the world. We analyze works of nonfiction to recognize how choices of content and language shape the reader’s perceptions and encourage the reader’s acceptance.

### **Fiction: The Story And The Moral**

Fiction is subjective and evocative. It is “made up,” and indirect in its communication. A work of fiction may evoke:

- the thrill of imagining impossible or unavailable experiences



- intrigue with playing out “what if” or “if only” scenarios
- feelings and perceptions of another historical period, or simply observations on the human condition

We thus read fiction not to gain new information so much as to experience the ideas and feelings a story inspires within us.

Readers have different expectations from fiction and nonfiction. Proof is a major issue with nonfiction; emotional involvement is a major issue with fiction. We expect a story (fiction) to grab us, an essay (nonfiction) to convince us. We will suspend belief when reading a romance novel or science fiction, but demand reason and evidence from nonfiction.

For passing time or sheer enjoyment, of course, simply reading the story can be satisfaction and reward enough. We do not have to analyze everything we read. The point is to be able to interpret when we want to—or have to.

Both fiction and nonfiction can be subjected to analysis and interpretation. These two forms of expression are, however, examined somewhat differently. One analyzes a nonfiction text

- to discover underlying themes and perspectives, as well as
- to realize how choices of content and language shape the reader’s perception and encourage the reader’s acceptance.

Analyzing Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, for instance, we can recognize not only remarks on the dedication of a cemetery, but comparisons between images of the living and dead, between what has been done and what must be done.

We analyze fictional works for recurring themes that reflect on the broader human experience. People do not really tell nursery rhymes so that children will know about a girl named Cinderella or about pigs who built houses. The stories have deeper, unstated meanings: virtue rewarded (Cinderella) or the folly of a lack of industry (The Three Little Pigs). We respond to both the story and an underlying message.

On the surface, Melville’s *Moby Dick*, for instance, might be seen as an adventure story about a man hunting a whale. On closer analysis and interpretation, the novel might be seen as a depiction of man’s battle to subdue nature or of a battle between good and evil. Since fiction is indirect, fiction can require a significant degree of analysis and interpretation if one is to get beyond simply following the story.

## **Fiction is Subjective**

Fiction is, by definition, subjective. A novel, story, drama, or poem is the expression of an author's imagination. The characters and situations are "made up." Readers expect fiction to **reflect** the real world; they do not expect it to **portray** the real world. And yet fiction can seem very real without being factual. Poems can capture feelings or images to perfection. Events depicted in movies such as *Schindler's List*, *Amistad*, or *Titanic* can appear just as they might have in real life.

Fiction can be true, however, only in the sense that the actions or behaviors "ring true" with what we know of the world. The sentiment may be real, but the characters and incidents are the fruits of the author's imagination. And author and directors—as in the movies referred to above—often use "dramatic license" to distort history for dramatic effect.

### **Vocabulary: Word Families**

#### **Word Families : In the Hospital**

Write out the following passage, choosing the best words from the box to go in the blanks.

Thermometer    samples    stethoscope    Antibiotics    pulse    patients    Pressure    examine    temperature    Aches    ward    nurse

On his first full day in the hospital, Emeka was woken early. He was in a (1) \_\_\_ with nine other people, but he didn't feel like talking to any of his fellow (2) \_\_\_. He was given breakfast, and then a (3) \_\_\_ arrived. 'Good morning!' she said. 'Let's take your (4) \_\_\_, shall we?' She took out a (5) \_\_\_ and put in his mouth. Then she held Emeka's wrist in order to check his (6) \_\_\_. 'Now I want to check your blood (7) \_\_\_, ' she said, fixing some equipment to Emeka's arm.

Shortly afterwards the doctor arrived to (8) \_\_\_ him. He wore a white coat, and carried a (9) \_\_\_ round his neck. 'Everything all right?' he asked. 'Yes thanks,' said Emeka. 'But my arm (10) \_\_\_ rather a lot.' 'Hmmm. We'd better give you some (11) \_\_\_, ' said the doctor. 'Two pills every four hours should do the trick. Oh, and let's have some blood and urine (12) \_\_\_, nurse. We might as well check everything out while he's with us in the hospital.'

### **Medical Conditions**

The state of being pregnant is called 'pregnancy'. Pregnancy is not of course a disease – but here are some medical conditions that are diseases or illnesses of one kind or another. As you can see, the letters are all mixed up.

1. IHATESPIT
2. MOCNOM CLOD
3. SIAD
4. RAAMLIA
5. SLEAMES
6. PLASMOXL
7. SPRYLEO
8. RADIOHEAR
9. CRANEC
10. ACHADHEE
11. SLEEPIPY
12. HOLECRA

Solution:

1. HEPATITS
2. COMMON COLD
3. AIDS
4. MALARIA
5. MEASLES
6. SMALL POX
7. LEPROSY
8. DIARRHOEA
9. CANCER
10. HEADACHE
11. EPILEPSY
12. CHOLERA

### **Exercise**

1. A typical sentence has a \_\_\_\_\_? (A. Subject and verb B. Punctuation marks C. Words and numbers D. Illustrations and objects)
2. In a sentence each, describe the major functions of each of the parts of speech.
3. In a typical sentence, the following are types of subject except \_\_\_\_\_? (A. Common name B. Proper noun C. Verbal noun D. None of the above)
4. Explain with examples the difference[s] between fiction and non-fiction.

### **Week 3**

#### **Contents:**

#### **Revision of Consonants – l, r, w, j**

## Part of Speech: Pronoun

### Revision of Consonants – l, r, w, j.

Most Nigerian languages have both /l/ and /r/, but some do not and some Nigerian speakers confuse the /l/ and /r/ sounds in English. Here is some practice in pronouncing them.

#### The /l/ sound

To pronounce the /l/ sound, the very tip of the tongue touches the area behind your teeth, where this area begins to move upwards. Air passes on either side of the tongue. Listen and repeat:

*The lorry was full of plants*

The /l/ sound is always spelled with the letter 'l' or 'll'. Listen and repeat:

Leave    Please    People  
Letter    Close    Travel  
Little    Splendid    Hospital

Note, however, that the letter 'l' is silent in many words. Say the following, making sure not to introduce any /l/ sound:

Half    Chalk    Stalk    Calm    Could  
Halve    Talk    Talk    Psalm    Would  
Calf    Walk    Folk    Balm    Should

#### The /r/ sound

To pronounce the /r/ sound, you bring the tip of your tongue near to the fleshy region behind your teeth, but without touching it. Then you quickly draw the tip of the tongue backwards, and air passes out. So while for /l/ the tip of the tongue touches that fleshy region, for /r/ it does not. Listen and repeat:

*Around the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran.*

The /r/ sound is always spelled with the letter 'r' or 'rr'. Sometimes 'r' follows 'w' and sometimes it comes before 'h'; these letters are silent. Listen and repeat:

Resent    Present    Prevent  
Reduce    Brief    Embrace  
Write    Afraid    Rhythm

The letter 'r' is often present after a vowel, but then it is generally silent. Say the following:

car lord sure fear herd fire

However, if a vowel sound follows (which may come at the beginning of a new word), the 'r' is sounded as /r/. Say the following:

a pair of shoes  
for ever and ever  
an hour of decision  
the fire alarm

Listening Practice

<b>/r/</b>	<b>/l/</b>
Royal	Loyal
Crown	Clown
Breed	Bleed
Grass	Glass
Lorry	Lolly

Now read out these sentences

1. Can you lend me your red leather box?
2. Broken glass is scattered on the green grass
3. The lawyer is loyal to the royal family
4. The problem is probably insoluble

### **The /w/ sound**

This is not a difficult sound. It occurs in all Nigerian languages. The lips are closely rounded.

*A weary housewife*

The /w/ sound is usually spelt 'w' but also as 'u' after 'q' and in some other words. Listen and repeat:

<b>W</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Unusual</b>
Worker	Quite	Language
Wonderful	Quick	Suite (Like sweet)

The word choir is pronounced as if written 'quire'.

The letter 'w' is silent in the following words: *write, wrong, two, answer, sword.*

## The /j/ sound

Like /h/ and /w/, this sound occurs only before a vowel, at the beginning of a syllable. It is not a difficult sound.

*A young Yoruba*

The /j/ sound is often spelt 'y', sometimes 'i'; 'u' often has /j/ before it. Listen , and repeat:

<b>Y</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Before u</b>
----------	----------	-----------------

Yes	Opinion	Unit
-----	---------	------

Yellow	Interview	Huge
--------	-----------	------

Youth	Onion	Failure
-------	-------	---------

The /j/ sound is also usually heard before 'ew'. Say these words:

new knew few stew dew

However, do not try to put a /j/ when 'ew' follows 'l' or 'r'. Say these words without any /j/ sound:

grew blew brew screw drew threw

From this you can see that 'blue' and 'blew' are pronounced in just the same way.

## Parts of Speech: Pronoun

A pronoun is a word we use to take the place of a noun, which can be a person, place or thing. We use it (pronoun) to avoid repeating a noun that had already been mentioned. A word (one of the traditional parts of speech) that takes the place of a noun, noun phrase, or noun clause. A pronoun can function as a subject, object, or complement in a sentence. Unlike nouns, pronouns rarely allow modification.

We can write or say, "Bobs has a bicycle. Bobs rides his bicycle every day." But there's a better way of putting it using pronouns: Bobs has a bicycle. **He** rides **it** every day. The words **he** and **it** are pronouns used to replace the nouns **Bobs** and **bicycle**.

Examples of pronoun

are **I, you, he, she, it, we, they, anyone, everyone, himself, myself, nobody, yourself, who.**

Other examples include **this, that, all, any, each, none, some, that, what, which,** etc. These pronouns can also be determiners, so how can we tell whether they are pronouns or determiners. It all depends on how they are used. As pronouns, they are used independently, that is without a noun following them.

- **This** is a green apple. (**This** is a pronoun as it occurs independently.)
- **This** apple is green. (**This** comes after the noun **apple**, so it is not a pronoun.)

Here, **this** is a determiner. A determiner modifies a noun, which a pronoun does not do.

- **Some** of the goats were rather skinny. (Pronoun)
- **Some** goats were rather skinny. (Determiner).

### Types of Pronouns

1. Personal Pronouns
2. Relative Pronouns
3. Possessive Pronouns
4. Demonstrative Pronouns
5. Indefinite Pronouns

### Personal Pronouns

**Personal pronouns** take the place of nouns that refer to people, but not all personal pronouns refer to people. The third person pronoun **it** refers to animals and things.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Subject pronouns		Possessive pronouns	
		Determiner	
I	we	my	our
you	you	your	your
he	they	his	their
she	they	her	their
it	they	its	their
Object pronouns		Possessive pronouns	
me	us	mine	ours
you	you	yours	yours
him	them	his	theirs
her	them	hers	theirs
it	them		

**Personal pronouns have number, person, and gender.** The **Personal Pronoun** must be of the same **number, gender, and person** as the noun for which it represents.

## Number:

The pronoun must agree with the noun it represents in number.

- **Singular:** The **boy** is playing with his ball. **He** has a blue ball.
- **Plural:** The **boys** are playing with their balls. **They** have balls of different sizes.

## Person:

- **First person:** **I** hate eating rice.
- **Second person:** **You** should not have done it.
- **Third person:** **It** is a rare species of fish.

## Gender:

The pronoun must agree with the noun it represents in gender.

- **Masculine:** Jill has a **boyfriend**. **He** comes across as a bit of a bore to her.
- **Feminine:** Jeff's **sister** loves to eat pizza. **She** eats it almost every day.
- **Neuter:** We have an old kitchen **table**. **It** has a broken leg.

## Relative Pronouns

A **relative pronoun** comes at the beginning of a relative clause. A relative clause is a subordinate clause that tells us more about the noun in the main clause. The relative clause comes immediately after the noun. Relative pronouns are **that, which, who, whom, whose, whatever, whichever, whoever, whomever**, etc. **That** and **which** refer to animals and things. **That** may also refer to people. We use the relative pronouns **who** and **whom** for people, and **whose** for people and things.

- I know the dog that **ate my bone**.

In the above sentence, the relative pronoun is **that** and it introduces the relative clause (in bold). 'I know the dog' is the main clause. The relative clause **that ate my bone** tells us something about the noun **dog**.

## Possessive Pronouns

The **possessive pronouns** are the possessive forms of personal pronouns. We use the personal pronouns in the possessive case to express possession. A possessive pronoun is able to stand on its own as subject, object, etc. A pronoun that can take the place of a noun phrase to show ownership (as in "This phone is *mine*").



<b>Possessive pronouns</b>	
Singular	Plural
mine	ours
yours	yours
his	theirs
hers	theirs

Possessive pronouns examples:

- This puppy is **mine**. That kitten is **yours**.
- I think the puppy that wandered into our house is **theirs**.
- Your bicycle is much bigger than **ours**.

The *weak* possessives (also called possessive determiners) function as adjectives in front of nouns. The weak possessives are *my, your, his, her, its, our, and their*.

In contrast, the *strong* (or *absolute*) possessive pronouns stand on their own: *mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, and theirs*. A possessive pronoun never takes an apostrophe.

**Examples:** We were both work-study kids with University jobs. *Hers* was in the library; *mine* was in the cafeteria, *Mine* is a long and sad tale.

## **Demonstrative Pronouns**

The four common demonstrative pronouns are **this, that, these, those**. We use them to indicate the person, thing or place referred to, with **this** used to refer to someone or something nearer (that is, nearer to the person speaking) while **that** refers to the farther one. If there is more than one person, thing or place referred to, we use **these**, which is the plural of **this**. **Those** is the plural of **that**.

A demonstrative pronoun is no longer a demonstrative pronoun if it comes before a noun that it modifies; it becomes a determiner. If it stands on its own without modifying or describing any person, place or thing, it is a demonstrative pronoun.

Examples:

**Pronoun:** **This** is the same story I heard from him before.

**Determiner:** **This** story is the same story I heard from him before.

**Pronoun:** **That** is not a bird; it is a kite.

**Determiner:** **That** bird looks like a kite.

## **Interrogative Pronouns**

**Interrogative pronouns** are used in asking questions. There are five of them, all of which begin with **wh-**: **who, whom, whose, which, what**. **Who** is used for people while **which** and **what** are used for things. These pronouns do not have gender.

**The following sentences show interrogative pronouns being used to ask questions:**

Examples:

Using **who**:

- **Who** ate the bread?
- **Who** is at the door?

Using **whom**:

- **Whom** do you live with?
- **Whom** do you wish to speak to?

Using **what**:

- **What** is your best colour?
- **What** are you going to eat?

Using **which**:

- **Which** of these colours do you like?
- **Which** do you think is better?

Using **whose**:

- **Whose** is that Toyota?
- **Whose** are those children?

## **Indefinite Pronouns**

**Indefinite pronouns** refer to people or things in general, that is they do not specify a particular person or thing. Such pronouns include **all, another, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, few, little, nobody, no one, none, nothing, one, other, several, some, somebody, someone, something**. Indefinite pronouns can be singular or plural in a sentence. Those that end in **-body** and **-one** are always used as singular. Indefinite pronouns that are always plural include **both, few, many, others** and **several**. Other indefinite pronouns, depending

on how they are used, can be used as singular or plural: **all, any, more, most, none, and some**.

Indefinite pronouns that refer to people are **anybody, anyone, everybody, nobody, one, somebody**, etc. These pronouns ending in **-body** and **-one** are always singular.

Examples:

- **Everybody is** waiting to hear the good news.
- **Nobody wants** to listen to my ghost stories.
- **One has** to know when to keep quiet and listen.
- **Somebody has** dropped his wallet.

### Exercise

1. The correct way to pronounce the /L/ sound is to let the tip of the tongue roll over the lower lip. True or false?————— (A. True B. False)
2. When the letter "r" is present after a vowel, it is generally—————? (A. Silent B. Loud c=C. Invisible D. Conspicuous)
3. What is a pronoun?
4. Mention and explain the five types of pronoun you know.

## Week 4

### Contents:

#### Literature: Fiction versus Non-Fiction (cont'd)

#### Poetry

#### Literature: Fiction versus Non-Fiction (cont'd)

#### Fiction is Evocative: Images and Symbols

Fiction conveys meaning indirectly (other than, of course, through morals at the ends of fables). The specifics are not significant. We draw meaning from the **types** of actions. This principle lies behind the fact that television crime series follow essentially the same plot line, week after week. It does not matter whether a crime victim is a socialite, a prostitute, a drug dealer, or politician, whether the crime is murder, extortion, or robbery. The message that the police always catch the criminal remains the same.

Fiction evokes ideas and feelings indirectly by triggering emotional responses and mental pictures. Fiction commonly communicates through images and symbols. Color is often symbolic, as with the red passion of the Scarlet Letter in the novel of that title. Sunlight often conveys truth or reason. In Willa Cather's short story "Death Comes to the Archbishop" the development of the Bishop's garden is a metaphor for the expansion of Catholicism in the New World. And then there is the politically incorrect use of white and black for good and bad, as in old Western movies.

Readers must be open to associations and reflection that are creative in their understanding and interpretation. They must recognize a richness of figurative language and concomitant element of ambiguity. The more evocative a text, the more the reader must do the work of finding meaning within the text.

### **Interpretation: A Personal Understanding**

The meaning of fictional works is more personal than that of non-fiction texts. With non-fiction texts, we assume any two readers will come away with pretty much the same understanding of what the text states. While we may not agree with someone else's interpretation, we should be able to follow their analysis.

With fiction, the meaning is dependent on the perceptions, imaginations, and feelings of the reader. In both cases, however, we demand that an interpretation be based on evidence on the page. And in both cases, part of understanding is understanding one's own interests, values, and desires and how they affect what one looks for and how one thinks about what one finds.

### **Analyzing and Interpreting Fiction: Perspectives**

The discussion of non-fictional texts is focused on the analysis of choices of content , language , and structure . The same focus is useful for the analysis of fiction—with some adjustments. The discussion examines

- the general perspective on each of the three major genres: novels (stories), drama, and poetry
- the application of the notions of content, language, and structure for each genre

Fiction, we saw above, is mostly about telling stories and expressing feelings. The content of fiction may take the form of the events of a story, especially in novels and short stories, spoken remarks, especially in drama, or images and symbols, especially in poetry. All three elements appear to varying degrees in all forms of fiction.

### **Poetry**

Music and drumming have rhythm, and so does most poetry. Read this poem aloud several times. Can you feel the rhythm of the lines?

### A Sudden Storm

The wind howls, the trees sway,  
The loose housetop sheets clatter and  
clang,  
The open window shuts with a bang  
And the sky makes night of day.

Helter skelter the parents run,  
Pressed with a thousand minor cares.  
'Hey, you there! Pack the house-wares  
And where on earth's my son?

Home skip the little children:  
'Where have you been, you naughty boy?'  
The child feels nothing but joy,  
'For he loves the approach of the rain.

The streets clear, the houses fill,  
The noise gathers as children shout  
To rival the raging wind without,  
And nought that can move is still.

A bright flash! a lighted plain:  
'Then from the once-blue heavens,  
Together with a noise that deafens,  
Steadily pours the rain.

Pius Olegbe

### A Storm

Describe a storm that you once experienced. Try to use words that appeal to your senses – sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste. For example, if you like use some of the vocabulary and ideas in the poem above. But of course, you should bring in some of your ideas too.

If you like, you may use the following plan:

Paragraph 1: Just before the storm  
Paragraph 2: During the storm  
Paragraph 3: After the storm

Or perhaps you may want to write several paragraphs on the topic During the storm.

Here is a possible beginning:

*As the dark clouds gathered, the whole valley seemed to grow darker.  
Calling to my brother, I .....*

Discuss these questions about the poem *A sudden storm*

1. Pick out the words that rhyme. Can you find any near-rhymes

Note: (**imperfect (or near)**): a rhyme between a stressed and an unstressed syllable. (*wing, caring*). Also referred to as half, slant, approximate, off, and oblique, this rhymes the final consonants but not the vowels or initial consonants. Examples are bent and rant, quick and back.).

2. The poet tries to give the reader an idea of

- a. quietness
- b. chaos
- c. excitement
- d. pleasure
- e. fear

Which of these best describes the poet's point of view?

3. Notice how the poet appeals to our senses. He uses words to help us to see and hear things in our minds as we read. Here are some examples

*The wind howls*

Is this better than saying *the wind blew*? Normally, only babies or animals *howl*.

*The trees sway*

Is it better than saying *the trees move*? Usually dancers or perhaps people who have had too much to drink, *sway*.

*Home skip the little children*

Is *skip* better than go here? Why? Note that children skip when they are happy

Now find words to help you hear the nose of the storm and the things it causes.

Make a note of any other new words and infer their meanings.

4. People react to the same thing in different ways. Do the children and adult react to the storm in the same way?

5. How do you react to this poem?

6. Write a poem of your own with the same subject. Just about four or five lines.

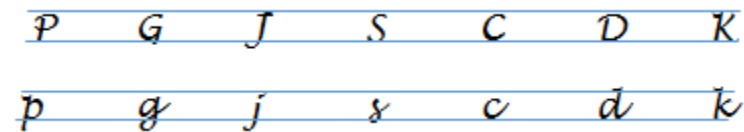
## Handwriting

Good handwriting is an important writing skill, and students should not neglect it. Bad handwriting causes our readers to stop and puzzle over what we have written. If they can't understand what we have written, we have not passed any message across.

Good handwriting is also attractive to look at. Most of us take care of our personal appearance – so why should we not also care about our handwriting?

So begin now to pay more attention to your handwriting. Everybody has his or her own handwriting style but certain principles must be observed. One is to distinguish between the upper case (capital) letters and lower case (small) letters. Most of the time, we use lower case letters. So answer this question: when do we use upper case letters?

Now study the following examples of some letters:



## handwriting

Note:

- An upper case letter should occupy all (or nearly all) the space between the two lines.
- A lower case letter sometimes has a 'tail' (e.g. p, g, j) which extends below the bottom line.
- Some lower case letters extend to the top line, but there is always a difference in shape between an upper case and a lower case letter.

Practice the following in your best handwriting:

Ogwoma, the widow, had been forced by her parents to marry Anike because they needed the money from her bride-wealth to cure their son who was very sick.

## Exercise

1. Differentiate between fiction and non-fiction.
2. What do you understand by the statement "fiction is evocative"?
3. In the poem "A Sudden Storm", the poet describes the contrasting feelings of weariness and joy invoked by an impending rainfall. Who is described as being weary and who is described as joyful? Explain.
4. Why is good handwriting said to be an important writing skill?

## Week 5

### Contents:

#### Grammar: Verbs

#### Writing skill: Paragraphs

#### Grammar: Verbs

A **verb** is a word or more than one word that is used to express an action or a state of being. A verb is an action or a doing word. Every sentence must have a verb. This makes the verb the most important word as far as the construction of a sentence is concerned. In a sentence, a verb connects the subject to the object. There are two different objects: **direct object** and **indirect object**.

A verb can be just a word.

- She **bought** a cake.
- They **ate** some food.

A verb can be more than one word.

- He **is running** a race.
- You **have broken** my glass.

A verb connects the subject to the object.

- Lola **rides** a bicycle. (**Subject:** Lola / **Object:** bicycle)
- Someone **has eaten** my chicken. (**Subject:** someone / **Object:** chicken)

A verb may not have an object.



- The sun **shines**.
- It **is raining**.

## Types of Verbs

- Transitive and Intransitive
- Linking Verbs
- Regular and Irregular verbs

A verb that has a direct object to complete the sentence is a **transitive verb**. A verb that does not need an object to make its meaning clear is an **intransitive verb**.

### The transitive verb

A transitive verb must have an object. Without an object, it does not convey a clear meaning.

- **Example:** He drove.

The question inevitably arises: What did he drive? No one in the world knows the answer to this question as there is no direct object to tell us what he drove. The meaning becomes clear when an object is added: He drove a **car**. Now everyone of us knows what he drove.

- The **subject (he)** performs the action: **drove**. The **object** of the action verb **drove** is **car**.

A transitive verb may take an **indirect object**. An indirect object is something or someone **to whom** or **for whom** the action is carried out.

- He bought **her** a cake. = He bought a cake **for her**.
- She is reading **grandpa** the newspaper. = She is reading the news **to grandpa**.

In the first sentence, the indirect object is **her** as it is **for her** that the cake was bought. In the second sentence, the indirect object is **grandpa** as it is **to him** that the news was read. The indirect object usually comes before the direct object as shown in above two sentences.

### The intransitive verb

An intransitive verb does not have an object. Without an object, the meaning is not affected.

- **Example:** Babies **cry**. / The dog **is barking**. / Tolani **is coming**

All the verbs (cry, is barking, is coming) are intransitive as they do not need an object to make the meaning clear.

- **Example:** The villagers caught a bat yesterday, but it escaped this morning.

The verb **caught** is **transitive** as it has the **direct object bat**. The other verb **escaped** is **intransitive** since it is not followed by an object.

## Linking Verbs

**Linking verbs** also called **copulative verbs** (or **copulas**) do not tell us what the subject does, but what the subject is. A linking verb links the subject to the **complement**, which states something about the subject. The complement can be a **word, phrase, or clause**. The most common linking verbs are the various forms of the auxiliary verb **be (am, is, are, was, were)**. Linking verbs do not take a direct object, and any verb that expresses an action is not a linking verb.

### Characteristics of a linking verb

A linking verb is not an action word.

- He **looked** at me. (It tells us what he did; **looked** is an action verb)
- She **looked as if** she was going to cry. (It doesn't tell us what she did, only how she appeared to be; **looked** is a linking verb.)

A linking tells us what state the subject is in, what the subject is, etc.

- He **was** angry. (It tells us the state –**angry** – the subject was in.)
- She **is** a trader. (It tells us she is a **trader**)

A linking verb is often followed by an **adjective**, but not a direct object.

- She **feels** sick. (**Feel** is not an action verb because it is followed by an adjective.)
- He **feels** the cool breeze of the ocean. (**Feel** is an action verb.)

A **pronoun** following a linking verb should be in the **subjective**, not **objective**.

- It was **he** they were looking for. (**He** is a **subjective pronoun**.)
- **Not:** It was **him** they were looking for. (**Him** is an **objective pronoun**.)
- **Correct:** They were looking for **him**. (**Him** is an **object**.)

### Using adverbs instead of adjectives with linking verbs

Adverbs modify action verbs, not linking verbs. Using adverbs instead of adjectives with linking verbs will result in incorrect sentences, as shown here. Some common linking verbs are **appear, become, feel, grow, look, seem, smell, sound, taste**.

Examples:

- - Bisi **appears calm**. (**Not**: Bisi **appears calmly**.)
  - He **became anxious** about his first interview (**Not**: He **became anxiously** about his first interview.)
  - She **feels sad**. (**Not**: She **feels sadly**.)

## Regular and Irregular Verbs

The main verbs are classified as **regular verbs** and **irregular verbs**. They can be identified by how their past tense and past participle are formed.

### Regular verbs

The past tense and past participle of regular verbs end in **-d** or **-ed**.

- Present tense – touch, kill, pass, rub, stop
- Past tense – touched, killed, passed, rubbed, stopped
- Past participle – touched, killed, passed, rubbed, stopped

### Irregular verbs

The past tense and past participle of irregular verbs do not follow the above pattern of grammar. They do not end in **-d** or **-ed**.

### Where only the past tense and past participle are the same

- Present tense – carry, die, fit, jump, show, try, shout
- Past tense – carried, died, fitted, jumped, showed, tried, shouted
- Past participle – carried, died, fitted, jumped, showed, tried, shouted

### Where all three forms are the same

- Present tense – cost, cut, hurt, put, read, shut
- Past tense – cost, cut, hurt, put, read, shut
- Past participle – cost, cut, hurt, put, read, shut

### Where all three forms are different

- Present tense – begin, choose, do, go, lie, see, sing
- Past tense – began, chose, did, went, lay, saw, sang,
- Past participle – begun, chosen, done, gone, lain, seen, sung

### **Where the past and participle forms can be regular and irregular**

- Present tense – burn, dream, learn, spell, spill
- Past tense – burned/burnt, dreamed/dreamt, learned/learnt, spelled/spelt, spilled/spilt
- Past participle – burned/burnt, dreamed/dreamt, learned/learnt, spelled/spelt, spilled/spilt

### **Writing: Paragraphs**

#### 1. The Ofala Festival

The Ofala festival is celebrated in Aguleri in October to mark the end of the harvest season. It is also an occasion for the local rulers to parade before the people. The Festival which is four hundred years old, lasts for four days

On the evening before the first day.....

#### 2. The Kamti Festival

The Kamti Festival lasts for about a month. Unfortunately, I missed it last year. Games and displays are held in the afternoon. The Festival normally starts in Kadi, where the so-called 'wisest man' lives. Kadi is the spiritual centre of Ngamo.

The Kamti Festival is celebrated to mark

.....

You can see the opening paragraphs of two descriptions above – one is Ofala Festival and the other is Kamti Festival. In each case, you will see the opening paragraph and the first line of the second paragraph. Decide which of them is better arranged.

In the first example, the writer has clearly planned to set out the information in an orderly way. In the other example, the writer seems to have written down the information in any order as he remembers it.

Whenever you want to write something fairly long, plan it in note form in advance, so

that each paragraph has a topic, or main idea. If you do this, you will find that you will write much better and your reader will find it easier to read.

## **Writing Practice**

Nigeria is very rich in cultural events such as mentioned above. Write a description of a local festival you know about, or took part in recently.

Follow these stages:

1. Preparation – Think what you might about. Better still, talk about the subject with a friend, or with the class.
2. Planning – Show your plan to your teacher before you start. If you wish, discuss it with a partner.
3. Rough Draft – Don't expect to get it right first time. Most professional writers write several drafts.
4. Final Draft
5. Check – Careless errors lose marks!

The notes below may help you, but you may make changes if you wish.

### **A Local Festival**

Paragraph 1: Introduction

When, and where, is the festival celebrated. What are its purposes? How long does it last?

Paragraph 2: Preparing for the festival

What preparations are carried out? When? Who makes the preparations?

Paragraph 3: The start of the festival

When, and how does it start?

Paragraph 4: The festival

Who takes part? What do they do? Who watches? What do the spectators do?

Paragraphs 5 and 6:

You decide what to write, if anything. In a description of this kind, it is quite a good idea to include a brief account of an interesting incident that occurred during the festival.

### **Structuring Paragraphs**

Topic

Comment

Paragraph 1	Introduction	The first paragraph of Nancy's diary gives us some idea of what the whole passage is going to be about
Paragraph 2	What Nancy did before the masquerades began	This paragraph tells us what she did first
Paragraph 3	The arrival of the masqueraders	This paragraph gives us a feeling of excitement, and wonder what is going to happen
Paragraph 4	Description of the masqueraders	This paragraph tells us what they looked like and how Nancy felt about them
Paragraph 5	The rules	This paragraph tells us how people should behave when the masqueraders pass. It also tells us what might happen if someone breaks the rules!

### **Skill Focus: Writing a Diary**

Why not get into the habit of keeping a diary from time to time? It will help you to practise your writing skills – practice makes perfect! It will also be great fun when you are older to be able to read about what happened in the past.

Things you can put in your diary include:

- Unusual things that happened in the course of a day – they may be happy or sad.
- The way you felt about the events that occurred
- Amusing or memorable things that people said
- Comments on books you have just read
- Anything else you think you would like to remember in a year or so's time.

Please note that diaries are always very personal, and there is no need for you to show your diary to anyone if you do not wish to. Of course, you should never read another person's diary without their permission.

### **Exercises**

1. Briefly explain what you understand by a verb.
2. What are the three types of verbs you know?
3. A linking verb performs what major function in a sentence?
4. Differentiate between regular and irregular verbs.
5. List some of the experiences that you can record in your diary.

## Week 6

### Contents:

#### Language Structure: Requests

#### Skill Focus: How to organise a debate

#### Literature: Non-Verbal Aspects Of Language

#### Language Structure: Requests

### 1. Making Requests

Very often we use language to request something from other people – for example, when we want to borrow something. The table below shows some common ways of making requests.

<b>Situation</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Common responses</b>
Very informal, common within classmates	Can I borrow your pen?	Sure. Here you are! Sorry the moment
More polite and hesitant. The speaker is not sure if permission will be granted	Could I borrow your pen?	Certainly. Help yourself. I'm afraid not. I'm using
More formal, polite and respectful	May I borrow your eraser?	With pleasure Of course I am afraid you can't
This is the least common and the most respectful	Might I borrow your pen?	By all means. I'd rather you didn't. Certainly not!

There are no definite rules about the responses – but those at the bottom of the table tend to be more formal than those at the top. In general, it is considered polite, when refusing, to give some kind of plausible reason – usually 'I'm using it at the moment.'

### 2. Requests and Responses: Role Play

Role play is not just something we do when acting out plays. It is also a useful language-learning activity. When you role-play, it is important not just to say the words, but to act them – to say them as you would in real life.

Examples of role-play:

A: Could I borrow your ruler please?

B: Certainly. Here you are!

A: Thanks a lot

A: Excuse me, Sir. Might I borrow your dictionary?  
B: I'm afraid not. I'm using it at the moment.  
A: Oh! Never mind

### 3. Other requests

Here are some ways of making requests listed, from the least formal to the most formal:

Will you/Can you pass the salt, please?

↓  
Could you pass the salt, please?

↓  
Would you pass the salt, please?

↓  
Would you mind passing the salt, please?

### 4. Eliciting Requests

Sometimes we want to find out what someone wants. Here, we always use would. Read and act conversations like the following:

A: Would you like a soft drink?  
B: Thank you. I'd love one

A: What would you like to drink?  
B: I'd like something soft, please.

## Writing

### Identifying the main topics

Read paragraph 1 of Traditional medicine in the paragraph below

Paragraph 1

Traditional medicine – witch craft?

In the past, many educated people regards traditional medicine as superstition. It was considered that it had no basis in modern medical science. Herbal medicines were thought to be either useless, or even actually harmful. Practitioners of traditional medicine were called witch-doctors, or quacks, and western-trained



doctors usually saw them as a possible threat to the well-being of their parents.

1. In paragraph 1, the topic is

- a. herbal medicine
- b. past attitudes to traditional medicine
- c. superstition
- d. doctors
- e. illness

2. Which is the topic sentence – 1,2, or 4? Notice how the support sentences explain, or develop, the ideas in the topic sentence.

Paragraph 2

However, this situation is gradually changing. While it is recognised that there are frauds – quacks- among traditional medicine men, it is now being increasingly accepted that traditional medicine has an important role to play in modern African society. Modern research into traditional methods has shown that they can sometimes achieve amazing results. For example, traditional medicine has sometimes been extraordinarily successful in solving problems of female infertility. As a result of such research, there is a growing interest among progressive African countries in examining the part that traditional medicine can play within a modern health service.

3. The topic of paragraph 2 is

- a. the problem of pseudo-doctors
- b. the changing situation
- c. the problem of female infertility
- d. new research
- e. African society

4. Which is the topic sentence 1, 3, or 4.

Paragraph 3

We all accept the value of research. Everyone accepts that research may be valuable. However, I think it is my own view that the sooner genuine medicine men are officially recognized the better. It would be misguided to encourage traditional medicine men for the time being there is a great shortage of medical workers in the country. At present, there are too many traditional fraudulent practitioners in this country. Many people suffer a great deal because of the absence of medical facilities. traditional malpractices. For example, the following incident, which happened recently occurred not long ago shows how traditional medicine can be undoubtedly very valuable. can cause great harm.

Possible Plan:

Paragraph 4: What happened before the visit to the medicine man

Paragraph 5: What happened during the visit

Paragraph 6: What happened after it.

Notice that your purpose in describing the incident was to provide some evidence to support your argument.

Paragraph 7: Conclusion

Of course it is not possible to reach a definite conclusion it would be unwise to draw a conclusive inference from this kind of incident. However, in view of this kind of case, it is not surprising that it is a little wonder that So many of our people doctors should continue to rely on have grave misgivings about traditional medicine men. The sooner modern more modern doctors learn to co-operate with doctors are trained to replace traditional medicine men the better. Only when this is done can traditional remedies the superstitious reliance play their part side by side with modern medicine. on traditional remedies be eradicated.

## Skill Focus

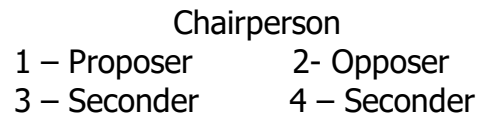
### How to organise a Debate

Why not organise a debate on this motion? 'This house thinks that traditional medicine encourages superstition.'

A debate is a formal discussion of a controversial issue at a meeting specially convened for the purpose. A debate has to have rules, otherwise it turns into a shouting match!

Here is a common way of organising a debate:

1. The *chairperson* (or *moderator*) sits at the front with the four main speakers – the *proposer* and *seconder*, and the *opposer* and *seconder*, and the side of him or her, as in the diagram below. The numbers indicate the order in which they speak.



2. The chairperson *calls for order*, opens the meeting, welcomes special guests (if any), and reads out the motion. He or she then calls on the proposer of the motion to speak.

3. The chairperson then calls on the opposer to speak.

4. The seconders for and against the motion are then called on to speak, in that order.

5. The debate is then *thrown open* to the *house*. Speakers from the *floor* of the house are invited to speak for or against the motion.

6. The chairperson then calls on the opposer to *sum up* his case.

7. The chairperson then calls on the proposer to sum up

8. The *vote* is then taken by a show of hands. Two *tellers* may be invited to assist in counting the votes for and against the motion, and any *abstentions*.

## **Literature: Non-Verbal Aspects Of Language**

### **Non-Verbal Aspects Of Language**

Spoken language is based on a face-to-face encounter. One person directly addresses another or others. (The electronic media, such as radio and television are, of course, exceptions, but even there we can envision someone at a microphone imagining an audience to whom they direct their remarks.)

Within the face-to-face encounter of speech, communication is not limited to words. Speakers use a wide variety of extra-verbal devices, from emphasis and dramatic pauses to changes in tone or tempo. Speakers also use a broad range of non-verbal clues. They “talk” with their eyes and their bodies. They use hand gestures and facial expressions to convey ideas. And speakers respond to similar cues from their listeners—the nods and grunts that say, in effect, “I hear you,” or the quizzical looks that say, “I don’t understand.”

As we learn a language, we also learn the non-verbal conventions of that language—the meaning of a shrug, a pout, or a smile. Speech thus often includes not only a face-to-face meeting, but also a meeting of the minds. “Conversation,” Steven Pinker notes, “requires cooperation”.

Listeners assume speakers are conveying information relevant to what they already know and what they want to know. That allows them to hear between the lines in order to pin down the meanings of vague and ambiguous words and to fill in the unsaid logical steps.

The Speaker and listener are aware of each other’s knowledge, interests, and biases. They can interpret remarks within the common social setting in which they find themselves. This mutual understanding, being “on the same page” as it were, is frequently absent with written communication. Information an author would like to assume the reader knows must be included with a text. Writers must make their biases explicit to assure full understanding by the critical reader, and readers, unable to read body language, must subject texts to close scrutiny to “read” attitudes or biases underlying a text.

### **Using Language In A Social Context**

Speech is a tool of social communication. We understand spoken remarks within the context of an exchange of ideas between rational and emotional beings in a social situation. We become aware not only of what one says, but what one does by uttering such a remark, and the effect they might bring about by such a remark.

Remarks may serve as expressions of feelings or ideas.

*Don't give it another thought.*

This is more than a command of not thinking about something. It is a promise meaning “I’ll take care of it.”

People not only state ideas, they can also threaten, inquire, and dare. They can be ironic or sarcastic.

*Can you pass the ketchup?*

This remark may have the form of a question, but functions as a request. If someone says

*I can't find the ketchup.*

they are probably not just announcing their inability to locate a condiment. They are asking for help.

Language can be used to request, persuade, convince, scare, promise, insult, order, and, as above, elicit action. Remarks often convey ideas that extend beyond their literal meaning. Listeners must infer unstated meaning. If someone says

*The government once classified ketchup as a vegetable in the school lunch program.*

they are probably not simply providing a lesson about the school lunch program. They are offering an example of bureaucratic stupidity.

We assume common rules for the use of language, and infer meaning accordingly. Thus if someone says:

*The robber appeared to have a beard.*

we assume that they are not sure, not that they are commenting on the mechanics of sight.

Listeners infer meaning within the context of social roles and settings. The meaning of an utterance can thus vary with the occasion, the relationship of speaker and listener (or writer and reader) or the listener's expectations of the speaker's purpose.

*Do you have the time to help me?*

This question carries different meaning when uttered by an employer or an employee. When uttered by an employer, the remark is a strong request for assistance; one would not generally answer "no." When spoken by an employee, it is more a respectful request for help.

An assertion that there is racism in the United States Army takes on different meaning and significance if asserted by a black soldier (an allegation), a white General (an admission), an Army Task Force report (official recognition), or a Moslem priest in Iran (a condemnation). The same comments takes on different significance when asserted in a bar, a Senate hearing room, or an elementary school classroom.

When learning to speak, we learn degrees of courtesy and "turn-yielding" cues that function somewhat like "over" in a walkie-talkie conversation. We learn social communication strategies—such as how to appeal to someone's vanity (Anyone who buys this cream can look better in days!), or how to imply a fact (Do you still beat your wife?). The late Lord Denning, often referred to either as the best known or the most colorful English judge of the 20 century, observed:

*When a diplomat says yes, he means perhaps. When he says perhaps, he means no. When he says no, he is not a diplomat. When a lady says no, she means perhaps. When she says perhaps, she means yes. But when she says yes, she is no lady*

While this may be an obviously sexist and politically incorrect statement, the remark nonetheless demonstrates ways in which language is a complex social tool for communication.

## **What We Say, Do, and Mean**

In the examples above we can distinguish between what is said, what is done, and what is meant.

*I left my watch home.*

This remark *says* that I left my watch home. By making that statement, I *do* something: I describe where my watch is, or that I am without it. Finally, the *meaning* conveyed (or inferred) is that I don't know what time it is.

- says: that I left me watch home
- does: describes where my watch is
- means: I want to know the time

## **Exercise**

1. In just a few sentences, describe how to best organise a debate.
2. In face-to-face communication, speakers use a wide variety of extra-verbal cues such as — and ———? (A. Emphasis and dramatic pauses B. Silence and Uncoordinated body movement C. Kicking and slapping the listener for attention D. Screaming or shouting)
3. Speech is a tool of social communication. Explain.

## **Week 7**

### **Contents:**

### **Intonation & Stress**

### **Language Structure: The Passive Voice**

## Part of Speech: Adjective

### Intonation

#### Falling Tune

The WH- questions all use the falling tune. In these examples, the stressed syllables are printed in capitals:

WHEN will you be ↓LEAVing?  
I'll be LEAVing at ↓EIGHT.

As you see, the voice goes down on the last stressed syllable.

The rising tune in yes/no questions

Rising tune is used when asking yes/no questions. With this type of question, the voice gradually goes down until the last stressed syllable, when it goes sharply up. For example:

Did they  
CATCH the B<sup>US</sup>?

Of course, the answer to this question, like any other ordinary statement, uses the falling tune.

Listen and repeat:

Did they enJOY the FILM?  
YES, very MUCH.

Have you reTURNED his BOOK?  
NO, I HAVEn't.

Are you GOing HOME?  
YES, we ARE.

Is he any GOOD at FOOTball?  
YES, but he's BETTer at BOXing!

Are they enJOYing the DANCE?  
NO, they AREn't.

### Spoken English: More on Stress

## Three-syllable words

In words of three syllables, the main stress usually falls on the first syllable or the second syllable, sometimes on the third. Say the following, giving the stress to the syllable shown in capital letters:

### *First syllable stressed*

FAMILY  
ANything  
SUpervise  
DIFferent  
FACtory  
EDucate  
ANcestor  
INterview  
URgently

### *Second syllable stressed*

toGETHer  
deVELOp  
comMITTee  
reMEMber  
fiNANcial  
sucCESSful

### *Third syllable stressed*

UnderSTAND  
afterNOON  
disaGREE

## More on stress in sentences

Can you remember which parts of speech are stressed?

Auxiliary verbs are among the words that are usually NOT stressed. For example:  
I have ALWAYS LIVED in the RURAL AREA.

As you can see, have, an auxiliary verb in this sentence, is not stressed.

But sometimes such verbs ARE stressed:



- when they come at the beginning of a question.
- when they come at the end of a statement

An example of each comes in this dialogue:

A: DOES your BROther LIKE STAYing in Kano?

B: ↓YES, he ↓DOES.

Notice also that B uses falling tune for *yes* and *does*.

In pairs, practise saying the following dialogues. This time, stressed syllables are underlined.

1. A: Were both your parents born in Lagos?  
B: Yes, they were.
2. A: Would you like to go outside Nigeria?  
B: Yes, I would.
3. A: I hear that Abuja is a very expensive place.  
B: That's right. It is.

### **Language Structure: The Passive Voice**

Very often when we use English verb, we use them in the passive 'voice' (or we can say that we use their passive forms). Here is an everyday example:

Our assignments *have* all been marked.

Here, something has happened to the assignments – they have all been marked. They have not done anything! And we do not know who marked them! If we want to say who marked them, namely the teacher, we use not a passive sentence but an active sentence:

The teacher *has marked* all our assignments.

You should already be quite comfortable with using active sentences.

So, generally, we use the passive voice action done, not about the person doing it. This is very clear in the first example above.

To form the passive voice, we use

- a tense or form of the verb *be* (*am, is, are, was, were, is, being, have been, etc*); PLUS
- the past participle of a verb (*marked, eaten, found, built*)

Sometimes we can use the passive when we want to avoid getting into trouble! Listen to this story:

One day, a boy called Tricky Micky threw a ball to a friend inside the classroom, and broke a window. At that moment the teacher walked in.

### Describing Processes (1)

We often use the passive when we describe processes, because we are interested in the processes themselves, not in the people performing them. For example:

Coal *is mined* in the Udi hills.

Diamonds *are found* in Sierra Leone

### Describing Processes (2)

In most of the examples so far, we have used the present tense of the passive (with *is, are*). But sometimes we describe processes in the past tense of the passive (*was, were*). For example,

The liquid *was heated*

This is likely to be someone's report of an experiment carried out in the chemistry lab. The experiment may in fact have been carried out by someone called Seidu. Using the active voice we might say:

Seidu *heated* the liquid.

But the passive voice is entirely correct when we do not find it necessary to mention Seidu.

## Practice

1. Make these two sentences passive, omitting the names of the persons performing the actions:

Remi recorded the temperature

Patience measured the plant

2. Complete these two descriptions of experiments using the verbs in brackets

- The liquid was cooled. (filtered/measured/boiled/measured again/then poured away)
- The plants were dug up. (measured/put into a bag/taken to the lab/replanted/watered)

3. Copy out the following paragraph, choosing the correct form from those in brackets:

A stone (was/were) suspended from a spring balance, and its weight (was/were) recorded. Then the stone (was/were) immersed in water. It (was/were) then weighed again, and the two readings (was/were) compared. It (was/were) found that the stone weighed more when it was wet.

### Part of Speech: Adjective

**Adjectives** are words that describe, modify or complement nouns (people, places, things, or animals) or pronouns. They describe the noun by telling us its size, shape, age, colour, etc. Adjectives usually come before the noun or pronoun, or sometimes they can come after it.

Examples:

The black car  
The green shirt  
A blue hat

Adjectives coming before nouns are **attributive adjectives**

- Everyone knows a lion has a **loud** roar.
- My **old** car is bad.
- Today, we have **blue** sky.

The words in bold **loud**, **old** and **blue** are adjectives, and they come before the nouns **roar**, **car** and **sky**. The adjectives describe the type of roar, age of the car and colour of the sky.

Adjectives coming after nouns are **predicative adjectives**

- That piece of meat was quite **large**.

- One of my tables is **round**.
- The sky looks very **black**.

The words in bold **large**, **round** and **black** are adjectives, and they come after the nouns **statue**, **table** and **sky**. Without the adjectives, we wouldn't know the size of the statue, the shape of the table, and the colour of the sky.

The above adjectives **large**, **round** and **black** are predicative adjectives, and the verbs (was, is, looks) connecting them to their respective subjects (statue, table, sky) are **linking verbs**.

An adjective can take up any position in a sentence, preferably close to the noun that it describes. More than one adjective can appear in a sentence, and we can make the two or more adjectives describe the same noun. The adjectives are in bold in the following sentences.

- The **little** girl is **angry** with her father.
- The **warm** air is **thick** with dust.
- His **big** house must be **expensive** to maintain.

The different kinds of adjectives are discussed in detail in under their respective sections:

### **Descriptive adjective or adjective of quality**

Descriptive adjectives are the most numerous of the different types of adjectives. These adjectives describe nouns that refer to action, state, or quality (careless, toxic, excited, sad, black, white, big, small, long, fat, English, Mediterranean, three-cornered).

- **toxic** chemicals
- **green** vegetables
- a **round** table
- a **big** cow
- a **tall** tree
- a **cold** weather
- a **true** story
- **English** language
- **Mediterranean** country.

### **Adjective of quantity**

An adjective of quantity tells us the **number (how many)** or **amount (how much)** of a noun.

- He bought **twenty** pencils.

- I don't have **much** money.
- There is so **much** wine for the guests.
- This long, thin millipede has **many** legs.

### Demonstrative adjective

A demonstrative adjective (**this, that, these, those**) shows the noun it modifies is singular or plural and whether the position of the noun is near or far from the person who is speaking or writing. A demonstrative adjective also points out a fact about the noun.

- **This** red kite is mine and **those** three yellow; ones are yours.
- **This** cute baby is his brother. **That** cute baby is his sister.
- **These** two fat cows have tails, but **that** thin cow doesn't have a tail.

### Possessive adjective

A possessive adjective expresses possession of a noun by someone or something. Possessive adjectives are the same as possessive pronouns. All the possessive adjectives are listed in the following table:

Possessive adjectives/pronouns	
Singular	Plural
my	our
your	your
his	their
her	their
its	their

### Forms of Adjectives

When we compare two or more nouns, we make use of **comparative adjectives** and **superlative adjectives**. We use the following three forms of comparison when we compare two or more nouns.

#### The absolute form

We use the **absolute degree** to describe a noun or to compare two equal things or persons.

Examples:

- His head is **big**.
- His head is **as big as** my head.

- His wife-to-be is very **charming**.
- His ex-girlfriend is **not as charming as** his wife-to-be.

### The comparative form

When comparing two nouns, we use a comparative form of adjective to describe how one person or thing is when compared to another person or thing. In making such a comparison, we have to use the word **than** to show that one noun is bigger, longer, taller, etc. than the other one.

Examples:

- A hen's egg is **bigger than** a pigeon's egg.
- Our fingers are **longer than** our toes.
- This basketball player is **taller than** that footballer.
- She says her pet hen walks **faster than** her pet duck.
- His head is **bigger than** my head.

### The superlative form

When comparing three or more nouns, we use a superlative form of adjective. We use the word **the** when using the superlative adjective to compare.

Examples:

- My great grandfather is **the oldest** one in the family.
- She has **the prettiest** face in the whole university.
- Bozo is **the funniest** clown in the circus.
- His head is the **biggest** of the three brothers.

### Exercise

1. In English language, a question that begins with **WH** is said to have the —? (A. Rising tone B. Even tone C. Falling tone D. Monosyllabic tone)
2. What do you understand by a three-syllabic word?
3. Which of these words have a stressed second syllable? ———— (A. Education B. Develop C. Afternoon D. Family)
4. Explain the three forms of adjective.

## Week 8

### Contents:

#### Language Structure

#### Reading Skills: Surveying, Skimming and Scanning.

#### Language Structure

### 1. Talking about Possibility

Read this dialogue:

Driver: Don't touch him! He may be suffering from an infectious disease!

Passenger 1: In that case we may be stuck here for hours!

Passenger 2: Or we might end up in the hospital!

The driver was not sure what was wrong with the man. He thought it was *possible* that the man might be suffering from a contagious disease. The passengers thought that they *might* end up in trouble, so they ran off.

When we talk about things that are possible we often use the modal verbs *may* or *might*. The two words mean almost the same thing, though *might* often indicates something less possible than *may*.

Look at this sentence:

Ali: When I leave school I shall get a job.

Ali seems very certain about what he's going to do when he leaves school. Most people are not so sure as Ali! For example, look at what Joseph says:

Joseph: When I leave school I may get a job. I'm not sure yet. I might go to the university instead.

Notice that the voice goes down on *sure*, then up again on the word *yet*.

### Table 1

join the army,  
go to university,  
get a job,

When I leave school, I may

get married,  
go abroad,  
move to Abuja,

But I'm not ↑ sure, ↓ yet

## 2. Future Possibilities

Ask and answer these questions.

1. What do you think you might do when you leave school?
2. What do you think you might do when you are 16 if you pass all your exams?
3. Where do you think you might be in the next 5 years?
4. Do you think you might travel overseas?

## 3. Present Possibilities

So far we have been talking about the future. We can also talk about possibilities in the present. Practise these dialogues:

Mary: Where's Caleb? He's not here today.

Grace: He may be ill.

Mary: Or the bus may be late

Grace: In that case, he may be coming later

Sule: Where's Uche?

Bill: He said he is ill.

Sule: In that case, he may be too ill to come

Bill: Let's go and see him.

Jeff: We're short of a player for today's match

Henry: I think James may be available. Let's ask him

Jeff: I'm not so sure. He said he might be going to Lagos today.

Henry: Well, he may be back in time. I'll go and see.

## 4. Reporting Commands and Instructions

Read this Dialogue:

Teacher: Stop talking, everyone, and pay attention!

Maduka: (who did not hear what the teacher said) Hey, Emeka did you –

Emeka: Sssh! He told us to stop talking!

Here, Emeka is reporting what the teacher said. His statement consisted of:

The subject: He

The reporting verb: told



The object: us  
 An infinitive phrase: to stop talking

**Table 2**

				stretch the patient out flat
				loosen all tight clothing
				move the patient nearer the window
	told			throw cold water unto the patient's face
				open all the windows
The doctor	instructed		to	slap the patient's face
	ordered			apply artificial respiration if necessary
The article	advised	us	not to	receive the patient by putting a match to his feet
				keep our heads
				lose our heads

**Table 3**

	Verb	+(pro)noun	+ to	+ infinitive
	instructed	me/you/him		
	told	her/us/them		argue.
	invited			
	advised	Mary/ Audu		come.
	asked	Mr Ojo		
	begged		to	go.
He	ordered	the boy	not to	attend.
	paid	the driver		wait.

- Make true sentences from Table 2 above.
- There are many different reporting verbs as shown in Table 3. Look at the table and make up 6 similar sentences

**5. Indirect Speech: Punctuation**

With direct speech, we use inverted commas.

For example:

'Park your car at the side of the road', ordered the policeman.

When we report this in indirect speech, we do not use inverted commas:  
The policeman told us to park our car at the side of the road.  
Write out the following speech in indirect format:

1. 'Take the second turning on the left,' he told them.
2. 'Go along the corridor and wait outside Room 12,' the clerk instructed Ali.
3. 'You'd better see a specialist,' advised the doctor. (Use *me*, and leave out *better*.)

### **Reading Skills: Surveying, Skimming and Scanning.**

Surveying, skimming and scanning texts can dramatically reduce the time wasted on researching. You will also need to read texts thoroughly for detail. Some of the texts you will read are likely to be complex and it is common that you will need to reread articles to fully understand them

**SURVEYING:** Surveying the text means looking at the table of contents, at chapter headings, at summaries or abstracts to get a broad, overview of content and purpose. Purpose – to get broad, overall picture of essentials in article, chapter, or book.

How do you do it?

- 1) read title
- 2) read abstract or first paragraph
- 3) read all headings, italicized words, graphs and tables
- 4) read last paragraph and/or
- 5) read summary

How will surveying help me?

- 1) facilitates reading—increases subsequent reading speed
- 2) improves comprehension
- 3) gives you ideas about whether to skip material, skim, read, study—helps you to be selective

**SKIMMING:** Skimming is looking quickly through a text to gain a general impression of what it is about. Skimming means looking over a text quickly, looking for key words, headings, tables, images and illustrations, to get the gist of the content. This will help you to decide whether you should read further and how useful the document will be to your project.

Purpose – concentrates your attention on the essentials of a paragraph or series of paragraphs

How do you do it?

- 1) read first sentence of paragraph

- 2) read last sentence of paragraph
- 3) read key words in between

Two skimming patterns:

- a) for formal style typical of most text books (with long involved sentences and long paragraphs: read using 3 steps outlined above)
- b) for informal style (shorter sentences and paragraphs) read using first two steps only

How will skimming help me?

- 1) after surveying article, you may feel it doesn't merit reading, but is too important to discard
- 2) use to review material (previously studied) just before a test
- 3) will help you get through material faster

**SCANNING:** Scanning means looking quickly through the text to find a specific piece of information. If you only need a specific piece of information, scan the text to find it. Don't read the whole text in detail.

Purpose – to help you find one specific bit of information within a relatively large body of information

How do you do it?

- 1) visualise the words/phrases first
- 2) visualise things to be spotted – get clear mental picture of the words
- 3) use all available clues– Look at capital letters, hyphens, italics, synonyms, key words and items in bold
- 4) use paragraph topical clues, such as words in boldface or italics
- 5) use systematic

Scanning patterns

- a) run eyes rapidly down middle of column using a zig-zag motion
- b) use wider side-by-side movement for solid pages of print

How can scanning help me?

- 1) uncovers relevant information
- 2) accelerates reading speed and flexibility (can scan ten times your present reading rate)
- 3) two situations where scanning is helpful:
  - a) you know material has information you want, but can't remember specifically what it is or where it is in the chapter
  - b) you are looking for something unknown – you won't know exactly until you find it (i.e., processing large amounts of information as part of your job)

Scanning is useful if you know the article has the information you want but can't remember where.

## **Researching and reading tips**

- Make notes in your own words not necessarily with the words of the passage
- Write down questions. What do you want to find out?
- Identify key points
- Create a mind map or lists on on what you have learned
- Question the author's position on the topic

## **Literature**

### **Folktale: Features**

#### ***Characterization***

Characters are flat, simple, and straightforward. They are typically either completely good or entirely evil and easy to identify.

The hero and heroine are usually young.

The heroine is usually fair, kind, charitable, and caring.

The hero is usually honorable, courageous, unselfish, and caring.

Both usually have special abilities or powers. The hero or heroine is often isolated and is usually cast out into the open world or is apparently without any human friends. Evil, on the other hand, seems overwhelming. Therefore, the hero/heroine must be aided by supernatural forces, such as a magical object or an enchanted creature, to fight against evil forces

The characters are usually stereotypical, for example, wicked stepmothers, weak-willed fathers, jealous siblings, faithful friends. Physical appearance often readily defines the characters, but disguises are common.

Motivation in folktale characters tends to be singular; that is, the characters are motivated by one overriding desire such as greed, love, fear, hatred, and jealousy.

#### **Setting**

Place is described easily and briefly (humble cottage, magic kingdom) that fits the typical geography of the culture or it is not mentioned but assumed.

Most folktale settings remove the tale from the real world, taking us to a time and place where animals talk, witches and wizards roam, and magic spells are commonplace

Time is in the past (usually long-ago) imbedded within the history of the culture. The settings are usually unimportant and described and referred to in vague terms (e.g., "Long ago in a land far away..." and "Once upon a time in a dark forest...")

Time is fantasy time (Once upon a time sets the stage and They lived happily ever after closes the tale.) any time or any place, timeless or placeless, or long long ago.

Plot

Very simple, though interesting.

Thought provoking to didactic.

Is full of action and follows specific and simple patterns. The plot starts right out with fast moving action that grabs the listeners' interest and keeps it. Conflicts are usually resolved with great deeds or acts of human kindness related to good and bad/evil.

The action tends to be formulaic. A journey is common (and is usually symbolic of the protagonist's journey to self-discovery). Repetitious patterns are found, suggesting the ritual nature of folktales and perhaps to aid the storyteller in memorization; for example, events often occur in sets of three sometimes (e.g., three pigs, three bears, three sisters, three wishes),

Theme

Usually universal truths, lessons, and values related to people, their actions, and/or material goods that is valued by the group that creates the folktale.

Often the tales tell what happens to those who do not obey the group's traditions.

Problems of young adults

Security

Fear of leaving home

Fear of not having children

Fear of not being loved or giving love

Reflect basic values and concerns of different cultures

Good and evil

Right and wrong

Justice and injustice

Happiness, kindness, friendship, loyalty

Love and loyalty

Discuss basic values of people

Common folktale themes include the following

The struggle to achieve autonomy or to break away from parents ("Beauty and the Beast")

The undertaking of a rite of passage ("Rapunzel")

The discovery of loneliness on a journey to maturity ("Hansel and Gretel")

The anxiety over the failure to meet a parent's expectations ("Jack and the Beanstalk")

The anxiety over one's displacement by another – the "new arrival" ("Cinderella")

Style

Descriptions are quick and to the point with little description and detail.

Plausibility story is possible but not probable.

A promise father promises to send one daughter, if set free; promises first son, if spin gold;

Number three father has three daughters and three sons, and three weeks to return

Magic Supernatural beings Objects (mirror, beans, golden objects) Spells, Enchantments,

Magical transformations, Character transformed by a spell and only the love or loyalty of another character can break the spell Ugly person casts a spell on ... Spell is broken and turns into a ...

Run away from home Gingerbread Boy – English, The Bun – Russian, The Pancake –

Norwegian Cumulative Henny Penny, sequence of events or characters that accumulate.

Repeat phrases, develop logic and sequential thinking (for preoperational children), and understanding for more sophisticated literature. The House that Jack Built, The Old Lady that Swallowed a Fly.

Folktale motifs (i.e., recurring thematic elements) are quite prevalent; they may have served as mnemonic devices when the tales were still passed on orally. Examples of common motifs include journeys through dark forests, enchanted transformations, magical cures or other spells, encounters with helpful animals or mysterious creatures, foolish bargains, impossible tasks, clever deceptions, and so on.

Extraordinary animals, monster, or other animated things. Three Little Pigs, Shrek

Explain a natural phenomena or custom. How Rabbit Stole Fire, Why Mosquitoes Buzz in people's Ears, Tikki Tikki Temkbo.

Tone

Good versus bad/evil

Reflection of human strengths, frailities, weaknesses, or imperfections.

Reader is led to new insights and/or understandings.

Exercise

When we talk about things that are possible to happen, we often use———? (A. Modal verbs B. Infinitive verbs C. Phrasal verb D. Auxiliary verb)

When is it most appropriate to use the inverted commas in a sentence? (A. When reporting a direct speech B. When reporting an indirect speech C. When trying to make a sentence look fanciful D. When writing a good speech)

Briefly explain the following reading skills- surveying, skimming and scanning.

## **Week 9**

### **Contents:**

#### **Spoken English: The /i/ and /i:/ sounds**

#### **Adverbs**

#### **Spoken English: The /i/ and /i:/ sounds**

We are going to revise the two sounds above.  
Listen to these two lists of words and repeat:

/i:/                      /i/

Eat      It

Feel      Fill

Heap      Hip

Sheep Ship

Leaves Lives

Seat Sit

Beat Bit

He's His

Least List

Many learners of English need to distinguish between these sounds properly. The problem lies with the /i/ sound of the words in column 2. Many Nigerian languages do not have this sound. So let us compare the two sounds. the /i:/ of the words in column 1 is generally quite long and your tongue muscles are very tense or strained as you say it. In contrast, the /i/ of the column 2 words is usually short. Your tongue is brought near the top of your mouth, but your tongue muscles are quite lax as you say it; there is no tension in them. When you say /i/, your mouth is slightly more open than when you say /i:/.

### **Spelling: /i:/**

The /i:/ sound is usually spelled as 'ee' or 'ea' but in some other ways als. Read the following:

*need, meet, chief, police, green, please, piece, machine, meat, these, believe, deceive.*

### **Spelling: /i/**

The following words all contain the /i/ sound, which is usually spelled 'i'. Say them:

*is, quick, little, did, which, bitter, this, with, politics, fit, give, Philip*

When a word is spelled with 'i ...e' the sound of 'i' is usually /ai/, but the following words should be said with /i/.

*river, driven, favourite, genuine, promise.*

There are some unusual spellings of /i/, which we find in some very common words. Say the following:

*busy, business, minute, women, pretty*



This sound is very often found in unstressed syllables where the spelling is '-ed', '-ied', '-et', '-age', '-ess', '-ies', '-ing', and '-y'. Say the following:

*wanted, carries, market, manage, useless, ended, ladies, bucket, going, quickly, village, married*

## **Part of Speech: Adverb**

### **Adverbs**

An adverb is a part of a speech which can be added to a verb to modify its meaning. An adverb is also a word or group of words that describes either the verb, or the whole sentence. Usually, an adverb tells you when, where, how, in what manner, or to what extent an action is performed. Many adverbs end in *ly* particularly those that are used to express how an action is performed. Although many adverbs end in *ly*, some others do not. Example fast, never, well, most, least, more, less, now, for and there. An adverb which is made up of several words is called adverbial phrase.

### **Positions of Adverbs**

An adverb that modifies an adjective ("quite sad") or another adverb ("very carelessly") appears immediately in front of the word it modifies. An adverb that modifies a verb is generally more flexible: it may appear before or after the verb it modifies ("softly sang" or "sang softly"), or it may appear at the beginning of the sentence ("Softly she sang to the baby"). The position of the adverb may have an effect on the meaning of the sentence.

### **Function of Adverbs**

Temporal Adverb – An adverb (such as *soon* or *tomorrow*) that describes *when* the action of a verb is carried out. It is also called a *time adverb*. An adverb phrase that answers the question "when?" is called a *temporal adverb*. *e.g* I always thought that the river was deep, but *now* I see that deep down it's shallow.

### **Types of Adverbs**

Although there are thousands of adverbs, each adverb can usually be grouped in one of the following groupings, headings and categories.

**1. Adverbs of Manner:** These describe the way or manner an action is performed. Adverbs of manner usually end in *ly*.

For example:

The people waited *impatiently*

Adverb like this answer the question HOW?

For example:

How did the clerk shout?

He shouted *angrily*

Examples: nervously, politely, patiently, clearly, badly, accurately, carefully, hungrily, quickly, slowly, noisily, beautifully, softly, well, thirstily, obstinately, suspiciously, helpfully.

Note: *Well* is the adverb form of *good*

Practice:

Choose from the adverb examples above

1. Dieng waited \_\_\_ in the queue
2. The letter-writer eyed Tolu \_\_\_.
3. The fat woman \_\_\_ left the post office
4. The children \_\_\_ waited for their supper
5. Greg \_\_\_ offered his identity card
6. The clerk \_\_\_ refused to accept it
7. My sister dresses \_\_\_.

The words we have been practising are all adverbs of manner. Sometimes we can use an adverb phrase:

Dare replied with *a quavering voice*

The patient breathed *in short gasps*

Sometimes we have to use a phrase. Watch out for the words *friendly* and *cowardly*. They look like adverbs because they end in *-ly*. But they are adjectives not adverbs.

The cowardly soldiers ran away

The friendly man gave him a lift

To use these adjectives as adverbs, we have to turn them into phrases:

Adjective	Adverbial
Cowardly	In a cowardly manner
Friendly	In a friendly way

Adverbs normally come at the end of a sentence. But they also sometimes come at the beginning or between a subject and the verb:

The policeman *slowly* opened the door – Adverb between subject and verb  
*Slowly*, the policeman opened the door – Adverb at the beginning  
The policeman opened the door *slowly*- Adverb at the end

## 2. Adverbs of Time and Place

Adverbs of time and place answer the questions WHEN? and WHERE?

When did she arrive? – She arrived yesterday (time)

Where did he go to? – He went to church (place)

When will you eat lunch? – In an hour (time)

Where is my shoe? – Under the bed (place)

When all these three types of adverb appear in a sentence, they always go in this manner:

	Manner	Place	time
She arrived	safely	in Jos	at two

### Exercise

1. Explain the main difference between the /ɪ:/ and the /i/ sounds
2. What is an adverb and what are some of the major functions it plays in a sentence?
3. In sentences, an adverb that modifies an adjective should appear where?——  
(A. Immediately in front of the word it modifies B. After the word it modifies C. Together with the word it modifies D. Without the word it modifies)
4. List and explain the various types of adverbs in English language.