

Quick Reference Guide for Shurley Grammar

Abbreviations

SN – subject noun

SP – subject pronoun (I, you, he, she it, we you, they)

V – verb

HV – helping verb

V-T – verb transitive (action verb with direct object in predicate)

LV – linking verb (is, are, was, were, be, being, been + predicate noun or predicate adjective)

CV – compound verb

ADV – adverb (tells how, when, where and modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb)

ADJ – adjective (tells what kind, which one, how many - modifies a noun or a pronoun)

P – preposition

OP – object of the preposition

DO – direct object (to find ask what or whom)

IO – indirect object (to find ask “to whom” or “for whom; or “to what” or “for what”)

A – article adjective (a, and or the – also called “noun markers”)

C – conjunction (and, but, or...)

PrN – predicate noun (renames the subject - to find ask the question “what” or “who”)

PA – predicate adjective (modifies the subject - to find ask the question “what”)

PPA – possessive pronoun adjective

PNA - possessive noun adjective

I – interjection (Oh; Yes; Wow...)

Classifying Sentences (placed at the end of the sentence)

D – declarative (ends with a period)

INT – interrogative (ends with a question mark)

E – exclamatory (ends with an exclamation point)

IMP – imperative (command; ends with a period or exclamation)

Shurley Method Patterns - The pattern of a sentence is the order of its main parts.

Pattern 1 sentence - subject-noun and verb

(SN V)

Pattern 2 sentence - subject-noun, verb-transitive, and direct object

(SN V-t DO)

Pattern 3 sentence - subject-noun, verb-transitive, indirect object, and direct object

(SN V-t IO DO)

Pattern 4 sentence - subject-noun, linking verb, and predicate noun

(SN LV PrN)

Pattern 5 sentence - subject-noun, linking verb, and predicate adjective

(SN LV PA)

General Q & A Flow for Pattern 1 Sentences

To find the subject:

1. Read the sentence: ***The big dog barked loudly at the cat.***
2. To find the subject, ask the subject question “who” or “what” and read the rest of the sentence. Label the subject with an “SN” abbreviation. ***What barked loudly at the cat? Dog - SN (say “subject noun” not “SN”)***

To find the verb:

1. Make sure you have marked the subject with the “SN” abbreviation.
2. To find the verb, ask the verb question “what is being said about” and then say the subject. Next, say the subject and verb together to make sure they make sense together. Label the verb with a “V” abbreviation. ***What is being said about dog? Dog barked - V (say “verb” not “V”)***

To find the adverb:

1. An adverb modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb. Go to the verb first and ask an adverb question.
2. To find an adverb, say the verb and ask one of the adverb questions “how, when, or where.” Label the adverb with an “Adv” abbreviation. ***Barked how? loudly - Adv (say “adverb” not “Adv”)***

To find the preposition and the object of the preposition:

1. A preposition is a connecting word. It connects a noun or pronoun to the rest of the sentence.
2. An object of the preposition is a noun or pronoun after the preposition in a sentence.
3. A preposition must always have a noun or pronoun (an object of the preposition) after it.
4. To find a preposition, say the preposition word and ask the question *what* or *whom* to find the object of the preposition. Label the preposition with a “P” abbreviation and label the object of the preposition with an “OP” abbreviation. ***At – P (say “preposition” not “P”) At what? cat - OP (say “object of the preposition” not “OP”)***

To find the article adjective:

1. There are three article adjectives: *a, an, the*. Article adjectives are also called noun markers because they tell that a noun is close by. Article adjectives must be memorized.
2. To find the article adjective, just memorize *a, an, and the* as article adjectives and say “article adjective” each time you see one of them in a sentence. Label the article adjective with an “A” abbreviation. ***The - A (say “article adjective” not “A”)***

To find the adjective:

1. An adjective modifies a noun or a pronoun.
2. To find an adjective, go to a noun or pronoun and ask one of the adjective questions: “what kind, which one, or how many.” Label the adjective with an “Adj” abbreviation. ***What kind of dog? big - Adj (say “adjective” not “Adj”)***

The Rest of the Q & A Flow

1. The – A
2. SN V P1 check. (The pattern goes in the blank. The check is to identify the other parts of the Q & A Flow.)
3. (At the cat) - Prepositional phrase.
4. Period, statement, declarative sentence. (Write a “D” at the end of the sentence.)
5. Go back to the verb - divide the complete subject from the complete predicate. (Put a slash in front of the verb. See the example below for a classified sentence.) **A Adj SN V Adv P A OP**
6. **SN V P1** The big dog / barked loudly (at the cat). **D**

General Q & A Flow for Patterns 2 - 5

Pattern 2: To find the direct object

1. Read the sentence: **Mom made a hat.**
2. First, find the subject and verb.
3. To find the direct object, say the subject and verb and ask the question “what” or “whom.” **Mom made what? Hat**
4. Since a direct object cannot mean the same thing as the subject, you say: **Verify the noun. Does hat mean the same thing as Mom? No. Hat – DO (Say “direct object” not “DO.”)**
5. Label the direct object with a “DO” abbreviation.
6. After the direct object is labeled, put a “t” on the verb (**V-t**) to indicate that it is a transitive verb. A transitive verb is an action verb that has a direct object in the predicate.
7. Shurley Method pattern: **SN V-t DO P2** Regular pattern: **N V N P2**

Pattern 3: To find the indirect object

1. Read the sentence: **Mom made me a hat.**
2. First, find the subject and verb.
3. Next, find the direct object.
4. To find the indirect object, say the subject, verb, and direct object and ask the question “to whom” or “for whom; or “to what” or “for what.” **Mom made hat for whom? Me - IO (Say “indirect object” not “IO.”)**
5. Label the indirect object with an “IO” abbreviation.
6. Shurley Method pattern: **SN V-t IO DO P3** Regular pattern: **N V N N P3**
7. Notice that the indirect object always comes between a verb-transitive and the direct object.

Pattern 4: To find the predicate noun

1. Read the sentence: **A bear is an animal.**
2. First, find the subject and verb.
3. To find the predicate noun, say the subject and verb and ask the question “what” or “who.” **Bear is what? animal**
4. Since a predicate noun must mean the same thing as the subject, you say: **Verify the noun. Does animal mean the same thing as bear? Yes. Animal - PrN. (Say “predicate noun” not “PrN.”)**
5. Label the predicate noun with a “PrN” abbreviation.
6. After the predicate noun is labeled, put an “L” on the verb (**LV**) to indicate that it is a linking verb. A linking verb is a state of being verb (not action) that has a predicate noun in the predicate.
7. Shurley Method pattern: **SN LV PrN P4** Regular pattern: **N LV N P4**

Pattern 5: To find the predicate adjective

1. Read the sentence: **Her hair is pretty.**
2. First, find the subject and verb.
3. To find the predicate adjective, say the subject and verb and ask the question “what.” **Hair is what? pretty**
4. Since a predicate adjective is an adjective in the predicate that always tells what kind of subject, you say: **Verify the adjective. What kind of hair? Pretty - PA (Say “predicate adjective” not “PA.”)**
5. Label the predicate adjective with a “PA” abbreviation.
6. After the predicate adjective is labeled, put an “L” on the verb (LV) to indicate that it is a linking verb. A linking verb is a state of being verb (not action) that has a predicate adjective in the predicate.
7. Shurley Method pattern: **SN LV PA P5** Regular pattern: **N LV Adj P5**