

Comunicazione Interlinguistica Applicata alle Professioni Giuridiche

Modulo di Lingua Inglese 1 - 2018-19

Lesson 6: 18 March 2019

Word Order

Word Order

Word Order in English is usually:

Subject – Verb – Object

Find some examples where this is not the case.

How is the order of adjectives determined?

Example: A major, long-awaited, legal interpretation.

What is the usual position of adverbs in a clause?

Inversion

Do we need to invest more?

Wouldn't it be better to rewrite the clause?

Would it not be better to rewrite the clause?

“The sentence is very clear”, he said.

“The sentence is very clear”, said he.

This regulation works better than does the other one.

This regulation works better than the other one does.

This regulation works better than the other one.

So and Nor (Neither)

Company results in the third quarter will be better.
So will those in the final quarter.

I think results will be best next year.
So do I.

I do not understand the decline in productivity.
Nor (Neither) do I.

Productivity will not improve in the immediate future.
Neither (Nor) will turnover.

Conditional Sentences

If I had known, I would have told you.

Had I known, I would have told you.

If I knew, I would tell you.

* Knew I, I would tell you. *

If you have an opportunity, could you send them the report, please.

Should you have an opportunity, could you send them the report, please.

Negative Openings

Never (before) has productivity been so good.

Productivity has never (before) been so good.

Hardly (Scarcely) had they overcome the crisis when inflation began to rise.

No sooner had they overcome the crisis than inflation began to rise.

Only when inflation fell did they return to profitability

Position of Preposition

What are you looking at?

At what are you looking?

Who are you speaking to?

To whom are you speaking?

This is a problem we have spoken about.

This is a problem about which we have spoken.

Here are the results you have been waiting for.

Here are the results for which you have been waiting.

“It” Cleft Sentences

The English subsidiary needed greater profits more than anything else.

It was the English subsidiary that needed greater profits more than anything else.

It was greater profits that the English subsidiary needed more than anything else.

More than anything else, the English subsidiary needed greater profits.

“What” Cleft Sentences

I want to present the results of the recent publicity campaign now.

What I want to present now are the results of the recent publicity campaign.

What I want to do now is present the results of the recent publicity campaign.

Now, I want to present the results of the recent publicity campaign.

“It” and “What” Cleft Sentences

The increase in exports compared to imports is surprising.

It is the increase in exports compared to imports that is surprising.

What is surprising is the increase in exports compared to imports.

“It” substituting the true subject

It took a long time to convince them to reduce the price.

Convincing them to reduce the price took a long time.

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Fronting

That issue we will discuss in the next meeting.

That the problem remained was evident to everyone

Why this is the case is a matter of debate.

So successful was the campaign that it will be continued for a further month.

Equally encouraging were the sales in the Far East.

Fronting

Gone are the days that of easy gains!

Beautiful weather we are having at the moment.

In ran three people and started to shout.

Verbs with Direct and Indirect Objects

The company gave all staff a Christmas bonus.

The company gave a Christmas bonus to all staff.

The procurement manager showed the suppliers the updated report.

The procurement manager showed the updated report to the suppliers.

Phrasal Verbs

The company put up prices at the end of the year.

The company put prices up at the end of the year.

The company put them up at the end of the year.

Order of Adjectives

Most adjectives are placed before nouns, respecting (more or less) the following order:

SIZE	AGE/TIME	SHAPE	COLOUR	ORIGIN/SOURCE	MATERIAL
little	recent	round	pink	Japanese	plastic
small	ancient	square	white	European	silk
short	old	twisted	green	Arabic	cotton
tiny	dated	oval	red	American	lace
big	brand-new	wedge-shaped	black	Victorian-style	leather
huge	modern	circular	blue	Chinese	glass

See: George Yule, 'The Study of Language'

- A subjective adjective (fantastic, wonderful, etc.) will generally be placed first.
- The most significant adjective is placed closest to the noun.
- Normally, no more than three adjectives are used before a noun.

Position of Adjectives

Adjectives can also be placed after the noun:

- The result was both satisfactory and convincing
- This is a smoke-free area.
- The project is becoming increasingly difficult.
- They appeared to be careful and efficient.
- They worked carefully and efficiently.

Position of Adverbs

Adverbs can (in theory) be placed at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of a sentence:

Usually, prices increase before a holiday period.

Prices usually increase before a holiday period.

Prices increase before a holiday period usually.

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Position of Adverbs

Typical usage is:

First, we want to increase sales, then we need to improve margins.
Obviously, this is not easy.

Results usually improve in the second half of the year.
Results are usually better in the second half of the year.

Unemployment is increasing dramatically.
They resolved the problem quickly.

They always pay promptly.
Payment is always prompt.
They have never paid late.

Adverbial Openings

Having reviewed the past situation, the president moved on to the future plans.

Unlike last year, this year's sales are improving.

Given the current situation, this was surprising

Nevertheless, caution is recommended.

Looking to the future, we need to be more consolidated.

All in all, we can be satisfied.