

University of Tikrit

College of Education for Humanities

Department of English



Inflectional Paradigms

Grammar

Second year

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1. The noun paradigm

The noun paradigm consists of four positions or slots: the stem, the plural form, the singular possessive form, and the plural possessive form.

Accordingly, the maximum number of forms in a noun paradigm is four, while the minimum number is one form only. The reason is that not all nouns have all the four forms, some of them have only one, some have two or three only.

- a. Many nouns are less likely to have possessive forms. They instead take the (of structure) These nouns mostly include inanimate nouns like: hair, pencil, chair, shirt, land,..... instead of saying (the land's price), we say (the price of the land) instead of saying (the chair's leg), we say (the leg of the chair) instead of saying (the shirt's sleeves), we say (the sleeves of the shirt) So with inanimate nouns the two positions (the singular possessive and the plural possessive) are empty.
- b. Nouns which are always singular or plural. These nouns include the following A- few nouns have only one form (the stem), like courage, love, tennis, haste, anger,...). These nouns have only one form in the noun paradigm, which is the stem position only. These nouns are always singular, so they go with the singular form of the verb. E.g. Tennis is a racket sport.
E.g. Haste often causes nasty things.
- c. Some other nouns do not have a singular form; these nouns are always in the plural form. for example, clothes, environs, trousers, scissors, pliers, tweezers, pants, goods, thanks, means,... they occupy two positions in the noun paradigm (the stem and the plural form. 0 These nouns go with the plural form of the verb and they take plural pronouns. E.g. The trousers are dirty, I need to clean them.
e.g. Her clothes don't fit right.

2. The semantic roles of possessive (s)

1. Description: The possessive indicates a characteristic, function, or intended association rather than ownership.

Example: a children's hospital → a hospital intended for children

2. Origin

Definition: The possessor is the source or point of origin of the noun it modifies.

Example: the poet's works → works created by the poet

3. Measure (time , distance, value)

Definition: The possessive quantifies the noun it modifies, often in expressions of time, distance, or value.

Example: a day's pay, three miles' walk, a week's holiday

4. Possession

Definition: The possessor owns or has control over the possessed entity.

Example: John's car → the car that belongs to John

5. Subject of Act

Definition: The possessor is the doer or agent of the action implied by the noun.

Example: the teacher's explanation → the teacher explained something

6. Object of Act

Definition: The possessor is the recipient or undergoer of the action implied by the noun.

Example: the student's punishment → someone punished the student

3. The verb paradigm:

The verb paradigm in English refers to the different forms a verb can take to express various tenses, moods, aspects, voices, and other grammatical distinctions.

1. Base Form (Infinitive): This is the basic form of the verb, without any tense or subject agreement. It's often used with "to" (e.g., "to run").

Example: run, eat, write

2. Simple Present (3rd Person Singular): This form is used for actions that are habitual or generally true, and it adds an -s or -es for the third person singular.

Example: runs, eats, writes

3. Simple Past: This form indicates an action that happened in the past.

Example: ran, ate, wrote

4. Past Participle: This form is used with auxiliary verbs to form perfect tenses and the passive voice.

Example: run (used with "has" or "have" as in "has run"), eaten, written

5. Present Participle: This form ends in -ing and is used for continuous tenses and as a noun (gerund).

Example: running, eating, writing

4. Aspect of the verb phrase

Aspect is the expression of meanings concerned with the continuity or distribution of events in time and it is expressed in many ways:

1. Beginning of event

He began to sweat.

2. End of event

He stopped sweating.

3. Frequency of event

She sang often.

4. Repetition of event

Jim pounded on the door.

5. Habitual performance of event (called habitual aspect)

They used to eat dinner early.

6. Single occurrence of event in time (called indefinite aspect)

I ate my lunch.

He stepped down.

7. Progression or duration of event in time (called progressive or durative aspect)

I was eating my lunch.

He walked to the library.

8. Completion of event (called completive aspect)

I have eaten my lunch.

5. The comparable paradigm

The comparable paradigm has only three forms: the stem, the comparative form, and the superlative form.

The parts of speech that can be included in this paradigm are:

- 1- one syllable adjectives Large, hot, big, nice, kind, tough, small,...
- 2- two syllable adjectives that end in (-ly) or (y).....lovely, friendly, happy, busy,...
- 3- few adverbs of one or two syllables.....fast, early, often,...
- 4- one preposition ...near
- 5- Other adjectives and adverbs are preceded by (more) and (most) instead of (-er) and (-est)