

GRAMMAR RULES

Rule #1

A complete sentence must include a noun and a verb.

The bird flew.



Rule #2

A complete sentence must include a subject and a predicate.

The angry bird flew quickly across the sky.

Rule #3

The only exception to the above rules is the imperative sentence.

Go away!

Rule #4

Adjectives can go directly before the noun they describe, or after it, if separated by a verb.

- The angry bird flew.
- The bird is angry.

Rule #5

A compound subject includes two or more simple subjects.

The bird and the plane flew.

Rule #6

A compound predicate includes two or more predicates.

The bird flew and sang.

Rule #7

A compound sentence includes more than one subject or predicate.

The bird sang and the plane flew.

Rule #8

An independent clause consists of a subject and a predicate, like a complete sentence.

The plane flew.

Rule #9

A dependent clause cannot form a complete sentence without additional words.

When the bird sang.

Rule #10

The direct object is the noun being acted on by the verb.

The bird ate seeds.

Rule #11

An indirect object is a noun indirectly affected by the verb.

The bird gave the seeds to me.

Rule #12

When written in passive voice, the object of the verb becomes the subject of the sentence.

The bird ate seeds.

--> The seeds were eaten by the bird.

Rule #13

Conjugations of the verb "to be" are essential to passive voice.

The seeds are being eaten by the bird.

Rule #14

Sentences written in passive voice can omit the subject of the acting verb.

The seeds were eaten.

Rule #15

In passive voice, the subject of the acting verb is connected by a prepositional phrase.

The bird ate seeds after lunchtime.

Rule #16

Prepositional phrases are sometimes separated by commas.

The bird, after destroying the feeder, ate all the seeds

Rule #17

Adverbs function like prepositions—they answer the question "how?"

The bird ate seeds quickly.

Rule #18

A subject compliment describes the subject of the sentence.

The bird is green.

