

SENTENCE PARTS

1. Identify the subject in each of the following sentences (from a play called *A small family business* by A. Ayckbourn)

- a. We all steal things.
- b. Of course I don't.
- c. Neither does Tina.
- d. From now on this family's going to be subject to a few hard and fast rules.
- e. Someone's trying to break in the back door.
- f. Who did that?
- g. What are you saying?
- h. There speaks the expert.
- i. What I'm saying is we're trying to keep this in the family.

2. Analyse these simple sentences according to the elements that make them up (S -subject-, V -verb-, DO -direct object-, IO -indirect object-, C -complement-, A -adverbial-):

- a. It's a free country.
- b. My friend lent them to me.
- c. She gave me a false name.
- d. I was educated privately in Dorset.
- e. We'll use the front door this time.
- f. Poppy doesn't get on too well with Harriet.

SYNTACTIC KNOWLEDGE

Read the following, which is part of a student's written composition, summarising the plot a story concerning two friends, James and Peter. Peter has been wrongfully imprisoned.

James knew very well the character of Peter. James went to the prison to talk to the police about the true story. Peter had been tricked by an old man that gave him a chicken stolen. He discharged Peter. In the afternoon when Peter came back home, talked about the help of James. Peter asked to his wife: 'Where's James?' When was night, received a letter from Peter's parent. Explained everything that letter.

Identify the following problems:

- a) An adverbial that is placed between a verb and its direct object.
- b) A noun phrase in which the order of the headword and an adjective have been reversed.
- c) Three examples of missing subjects.
- d) A subject which has been placed at the end of the clause.
- e) A preposition incorrectly used with an indirect object.