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Classes and Systems

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What is the notion of Class?

- Basically, words that can fill a certain place in a sentence are sorted to the same class. Let's take the following example:

The clause		
The man	went	home.
S	V	A

- Here we have three elements filling three places. The first place can be filled by other elements like 'the boy', 'the teacher', 'Ali', 'Layla', 'the cat', ... Etc.
- It is noted that all these items and others belong to the same class (i.e. the noun or the noun phrase).
- Likewise, the second place of the clause; it can be filled by 'went', 'travelled', 'played', 'walked', ... etc. provided that the element should be of the class of verb or verb phrase. And so on.

- In the class, there may be subclasses. In other words, the class of nouns can be divided into proper nouns (Ali, Mosul, ...etc.), common nouns (city, house, water, power, ...etc.).
- Common nouns, for example, can be again subdivided into countable nouns (boy → boys) and uncountable nouns (ink, water, love).
- A class is usually described as ‘open’ because the number of items are not limited. So, the classes of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs are open and have unlimited number of items.

What is the notion of system?

- Systems are basically a closed groups that made up of several elements, like the number system, the gender system, the tense system, ... etc.
- So, system is a choice that the language user chooses among other options available in a certain language.
- For instance, Arabic has three choices in the number system: singular, dual, and plural, whereas English has only two: singular, plural.

- Examples:

<i>English number system</i>		<i>Arabic number system</i>		
<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Dual</i>	<i>Plural</i>
<i>Book</i>	<i>Books</i>	كِتَاب	كِتَابَان	كُتُب
<i>Watch</i>	<i>Watches</i>	سَاعَةٌ	سَاعَتَان	سَاعَات

- The choice of each system is called ‘terms’ which are **semantically based**. So, the English number system is of two terms, and Arabic has three terms of number system.
- Systems are described as ‘closed’, because the terms of (any) system are limited in number (i.e. they can be counted).

Parts of speech:

The boys were playing football in the garden.



The	boys	were	playing	football	in	the	garden.	
Art.	N.	V.	V.	N.	Pre.	Art.	N.	

Sentence structure:

The boys were playing football in the garden.

The boys	were playing football in the garden
s.	p.

Sentence elements:

The boys were playing football in the garden.

s.	v.	O.	A.
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The boy put the bird in the cage:

وضع الولد الطائر في القفص.

الولد وضع الطائر في القفص.

	The	Boy	put	the	bird	in	the	cage.
sentence elements	S.		V.	O.		A.		

	The	Boy	put	the	bird	in	the	cage.
sentence structure	S.		P.					

the translated sentence:

	القفص.	في	الطائر	الولد	وضع
sentence structure				S.	

	القفص.	في	الطائر	الولد	وضع
sentence elements	A.		O.	S.	V.

