

## 2 Parsing

1. In order to concentrate on key-words, first of all, you need to know how to parse.

Where to parse

1. In front of a verb when the noun phrase as a subject is too long

### [ Example ]

- A simple telescope was invented by the Dutch.
- My generous teacher is sometimes very tough.
- The most impressive movie was Arrogance and Prejudice.

2. In front of a relative pronoun, conjunction and interrogative

(e.g. that, who, when, where, how, what)

### [ Example ]

- There are many people who suffer from respiratory problems.
- I asked the attendant what time the conference started.
- I believe what they expect is quite reasonable.

[Caution] Relative pronoun or conjunction 'that' can be left out.

- Little did Cinderella dream she would marry a prince.
- Anything you donate will be very helpful for the homeless.

3. In front of and behind the prepositional phrase

(e.g. at, as, along, beside, by, during, for, in, to, on, under, over, with)

### [ Example ]

- Koreans tend to have one job for whole life.
- Road signs can inform you of road construction ahead.
- A moment's hesitation on the battlefield will cost you your life.

4. In the punctuation (, : ; -)

**[ Example ]**

- The forests, jungles, and other places are changed to the farm.
- "I was excited to have Hamlet ask his own destiny - Where am I coming from?

Where am I going?

**[ EXERCISE 1 ]** Make a parsing

1. I was so tired that I lay down on the couch and closed my eyes.
2. There is no evidence that playing Mozart to babies will raise their IQs.
3. Little children purchase something by commercials they really believe.
4. Fifteen minutes in warm water before going to bed helps.

5. In front of an infinitive, gerund and participle (optional)

(e.g. toV, V-ing, V-ed)

**Example**

- We must aim above the mark to hit the mark.
- It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- People complaining too much may make others uncomfortable.
- The knowledge gained by a practical experience is valuable.

6. In the adverb or adverbial phrase (optional)

**Example**

- This year the numbers are expected to show a steeper decline.
- The solar system was formed approximately 4.5 billion years ago.

7. You don't have to parse two-word verbs or idioms - you need trial and error. (e.g. look at, take off, take care of, because of)

**Example**

- The plane has just taken off from Kennedy International Airport.
- Scientists have noticed that the ozone layer has been getting thinner.
- Witnesses insisted that the accident had take place on the crosswalk.

8. You need to extend parsing range, if necessary.

**Example**

- If I don't know the meaning of a word in English, I always look it up in the dictionary.
- The best way to improve my reading in English is to memorize as much new vocabulary as I can.

**EXERCISE 1** Make parsing

1. Making a good impression during the first meeting is very important for friendship and business.
2. The man and woman walking down the main street were wearing leather jackets.
3. Sitting at computer desks for hours can also result in damage to our back.
4. He probably gets rid of a peak time when the airports are crowded and unpleasant.
5. The North American Indians, for instance, made use of the earth as a sound medium.
6. The sound we hear travel through the air, but it can also travel through solid and liquid substances.
7. When at rest, the heart of a human body in good physical condition beats approximately 60 times a minute.
8. In some villages in many developing countries people get their water from lakes.
9. Forgetting people's names often means we do not really care about the people.
10. The only thing students should be required to do is to study a broad range of subjects throughout middle and high school.