

**English clause patterns and clause elements, the Simple Sentence**  
**HANDOUT**  
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**1. There's a reason we call dogs man's best friend**

2. Dogs. There's a reason we call them man's best friend. We can learn so many things from

3. a dog's behaviour, personality, demeanour, resiliency, and most importantly, the

4. willingness to provide their family members with unconditional love, loyalty, and

5. companionship down to their very last breath.

6. You come in the door from a long day's work. The dog doesn't judge you, he doesn't **care**

7. how you're dressed or if you've just **had** a really bad day. No matter the situation, your dog

8. **is** happy to see you. You are greeted with the same enthusiasm each and every time you

9. walk in that door. A dog has the ability to live in the present moment. They don't regret the

10. past or worry about the future. If we can **learn** to appreciate and focus on what's

11. happening in the here and now, we'll experience a richness of living.

12. In the presence of a dog, somehow, nothing else **matters**. A dog is handing out pure love,

13. sparing no expense, and asking absolutely nothing in return. There's consistency, love,

14. and the beauty of life at its finest.

15. Dogs have the ability to sense what's really going on. Many of us have lost touch with this

16. all-important instinctual part of who we are. By paying attention to nonverbal cues such as

17. body language and energy, we learn more about our friends, our loved ones, and

18. ourselves.

19. Dogs don't hold grudges. There's a remarkable lack of conflict in dog packs. That's

20. because members resolve the situation when disagreements arise, then move on. Imagine

21. what our world would be like if we dealt with all conflicts before they escalated out of

22. control.

**Questions and tasks:**

1. What are the 7 types of clause patterns? Give an example.

2. **Line 6:** identify the clause pattern in the underlined clauses.

3. Explain multiple class membership of verbs and give examples.

4. What are three major types of verb classes? Give examples.

5. Mark the verbs in bold from the text transitive, intransitive or copular.

6. **Line 7:** Your dog is happy. Compare it with the sentence your dog is in the living room.

Focus on obligatory adverbials in SVA and the parallel with obligatory complements in SVC. (p. 206).

7. **Line 9:** Focus on the underlined sentence and give syntactic characterization of clause elements (p. 207).

8. **Line 9:** Focus on the underlined sentence and give semantic characterization of clause elements (p. 209).
9. **Line 12:** Look at the underlined sentence. Identify clause elements. What is the semantic role of the subject?
10. Give an example of the “prop it subject”
11. Give an example of the “eventive object”
12. **Line 19:** Look at the underlined sentence and underline the clause elements.

**For more information on clause patterns and clause elements, check handout 1**