

Answers Unit 5

1. Follow the steps outlined in the question and make up your own mind!

In doing so, you will not fail to notice that the definition of "preposition" proposed by Huddleston/ Pullum is very far removed from, and far more extended than, the more traditional one in Greenbaum/Quirk. For example, prepositions can govern clauses in Huddleston/Pullum's model, but not in Greenbaum/Quirk's:

I haven't heard from her since April. - I haven't heard from her since she left.

I went home after lunch. - I went home after I had bought the tickets.

All uses of *after* and *since* in this list would be considered prepositional by Huddleston/Pullum, whereas *after* and *since* in the right-hand column would be considered conjunctions by Greenbaum/Quirk (and most other grammars).

2. What is usually considered the possessive pronoun in English (*my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their*) could also be called a possessive adjective, as it cannot occur by itself but only before a noun. The true possessive pronouns on this definition are *mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, yours, theirs*, as these forms can fully replace a noun phrase. Note the presence of an additional, mixed structure "of + possessive adjective + own."
3. Follow the instructions in the question and make up your own mind! The fact that some grammars may not use the category at all while others might define it in more or less different ways shows you that grammatical categories are not objectively present or "given" in the data but developed in an analytical process. They do not automatically fall out from an analysis of the linguistic data of a particular language, but are partly determined by the theory of the analyst and his or her priorities.

4.

	SP	SPO	SPCs	SPA	SPOO	SPOCo	SPOA
Be			✓	✓			
Have		✓				✓	✓

Do		✓		✓	✓		
Get	(✓)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Want		✓		(✓)		✓	✓
Come	✓		✓	✓			
Go	✓		✓	✓			
Give		✓			✓		
Take		✓		✓		✓	✓
Make		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Put							✓
Keep		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Be: I am ill (SPCs) – I am home (SPA)

Have: I have a car (SPO) – I had everything ready (SPOCo) – She had her passport in her purse (SPOA)

Do: She did a nice job (SPO) – She did well (SPA) – I do him justice (SPOO)

Get: I told him to get (SP) [i.e. get out/off; marginal] – I got a book (SPO) – I'm getting nervous (SPCs) – He'll get here (SPA) – He got her a present (SPOO) – He got his shoes wet (SPOCo) – Peter got his friend into trouble (SPOA)

Want: I want a coffee (SPO) – (Jenny wants out (SPA) [marginal]) – I want my coffee black (SPOCo) - We want him out of here (SPOA)

Come: I'll come! (SP) – This car doesn't come cheap (SPCs) – We came home (SPA)

Go: I'll go! (SP) – I'll go mad (SPCs) - I'll go to bed (SPA)

Give: I gave a small donation (SPO) – He gave his mother flowers (SPOO)

Take: I'll take a coffee (SPO) – It'll take half an hour (SPA) – The rebels took him prisoner (SPOCo) – He took the book to the library/ He took the threat too lightly (SPOA)

Make: She made a cake (SPO) – She'll make a nice colleague (SPCs) – He made her coffee (SPOO) – The news made him happy (SPOCo) – We won't make it to London (SPOA) [restricted]; exceptional idiomatic pattern SPOCs: She will make him a good wife

Put: Peter puts sugar in his coffee (SPOA)

Keep: I'll keep the present (SPO) – I'll keep warm (SPCs) – They kept in the shade (SPA) – Please keep me a seat (SPOO) – He kept his father busy (SPOCo) – Liz keeps her passport in her purse (SPOA)

5. *I found this book about the women's question in Ireland.*

a. I found this book in Ireland, and it's about the women's question. I (S) found (P) this book about the women's question (O) in Ireland (A of place).

b. I found this book, which is about the women's question in Ireland. I (S) found (P) this book about the women's question in Ireland (O).

Visiting relatives can be a nuisance.

a. Relatives who visit can be a nuisance. Visiting relatives (S) can be (P) a nuisance (Cs)

b. It is a nuisance to visit relatives. [Visiting (P) relatives (O)] (S-clause, non-finite) can be (P) a nuisance (Cs).

You can meet all sorts of people hanging around here.

a. You can meet all sorts of people who hang around here. You (S) can meet (P) all sorts of people (O) [hanging around (P) here] (Co, realised as non-finite clause).

b. You can meet all sorts of people if you hang around here. You (S) can meet (P) all sorts of people (O) [hanging around (P) here (A)] (A-clause, non-finite).

6. *Whether we will get our money back is still in doubt.* - Subject clause

Almost everything he has said in his defence is completely unconvincing. - no subject clause: *he has said* is a relative clause post-modifying the phrase *almost everything*

What you need is a good rest. - finite subject clause

That so few people have complained about the reforms in public does not necessarily mean that everybody's happy with them. - finite subject clause

Old people living alone and dying of hypothermia in Britain today is a bloody shame. - non-finite subject clause. Note that *old people*, the plural, does not agree in number with the singular verb *is*; paraphrase: "That old people (should) live alone and die of hypothermia in Britain today is a shame."

Old people living alone are the group most at risk. - no subject clause; noun-phrase subject *old people* post-modified by non-finite relative clause; *old people* accordingly agrees with *are* in number.

His remark is clearly intended as a provocation but to respond to it immediately would be counter-productive. - non-finite subject clause

It is heartening that so many people have agreed to help. - a clause with subject function but not in subject (i.e. pre-verbal) position, usually referred to as extraposed subject clause. Extraposition of long clauses to the end of a sentence is a way of achieving better balance of information. In place of the extraposed subject, we get the empty or "dummy" pronoun *it*.

7. *She used to make a living giving English lessons.* - non-finite adverbial clause of manner. One slight complication: unlike most such clauses, this one cannot be moved to the beginning of the sentence: **Giving English lessons, she used to make a living*. This is an argument for treating the adverbial as an obligatory rather than optional constituent in this particular construction.

I'm looking for a book to consult on weak-stress forms in English. - non-finite relative clause, with a purpose meaning ("a book which I could consult on weak-stress forms in English"). This works better than the alternative, plausible at first sight, of treating the underlined passage as an adverbial clause of purpose: Note that such a purpose clause would have the form "... in order to

consult **it** on weak-stress forms in English," with the pronoun *it* in object position, and we have no ready way of explaining its disappearance. Note, further, that we could not expand the *to* into *in order to* in the original version: "*in order to consult on weak-stress forms in English".

*We're all waiting **for the crew to open the door**.* - non-finite object clause; evidence: the whole underlined sequence allows passivisation: "We're all waiting for the door to be opened." Complication: the notional subject of this non-finite clause is introduced by the preposition *for*, which, however, is quite common in present-day English. These are a few more examples in which *for* when introducing an infinitival clause is equivalent in function to the conjunction *that* introducing a finite clause: *That's not a thing **for you to say**.* = That's not a thing that you should say.

*I stepped aside **for her to enter**.* = I stepped aside so that she could enter.

*The park was built **in order for people to enjoy the view of the countryside**.* = The park was built so that people might enjoy the view of the countryside.

***Coming home**, we found the kids **playing in front of the running television**.* - *coming home* = non-finite adverbial of time (- *when we came home*); *playing in front of the running television* = adverbial of place (where?) or description of the object. Depending on your choice, you will opt for either a SPOA and SPOCo analysis (in which the A or Co constituent is realised as a non-finite clause).

*This won't prevent you **falling asleep in his classes**.* - non-finite object clause. Note that there is a more explicit variant, *This won't prevent you **from** falling asleep in his classes*, which is in a more obvious relation to comparable simple sentences such as *This prevents you from disease* (SVOO).

*... several measures that **failed to** keep the system running ...* - *failed to* = catenative verb used in combination with a following non-finite verb

*Who would want **there** to be another war.* - existential *there*. Complication: Existential *there* is normally restricted to subject position. We exceptionally find it placed after the verb here because the entire structure *there to be another war* is a non-finite object clause, identical in its logical structure to the finite *there is another war*, in which the *there* is in its proper place. The one odd fact about the grammar of present-day English is that the language does not allow a simple concatenation of two finite clauses, as in **Nobody wants that there is another war*.

*That was the **wrong** solution to advocate.* - *wrong* = pre-modification of *solution*. Complication: There is no all-round satisfactory solution as we have a mismatch between form and function. In terms of form, *wrong* is an attributive adjective characterising the following noun, *solution*. The underlying idea, though, is that what is wrong was not the solution itself but the fact that someone actively advocated it (cf. "It was wrong to advocate this solution.")

8. The example shows how the meaning of the verb phrase and the grammatical rules for the use of the progressive interact in subtle ways. Used by itself, *read* is a durative verb. No clear beginning or ending of the activity is marked. *Read a book*, on the other hand, is terminative, i.e. the action is completed after you've turned over the last page.

The English present perfect simple usually indicates that an activity started in the past and extends to the moment of speaking or that there is some currently relevant result of the past activity. This is clearly the case for *I have read several books on the subject*. The consequences for the present become obvious if you add *and I now know everything about this subject*. **I have read*, by contrast, is ungrammatical because this clause does not describe an action with specifiable consequences for the present. It works in the present perfect progressive, because this form merely indicates that the verbal activity should be seen as a process unfolding in time. Note that of course we could also say *I have been reading several books on the subject*, thereby shifting the emphasis from the present result of our reading to the past and probably ongoing process of reading.

As the distinction between the simple and progressive forms is not available in German, *ich habe gelesen* covers both the fact/ result and the process - *reading* is therefore grammatical.

9. *They persuaded the parents to sell their house.*

The parents were persuaded (by them) to sell the house.
* They persuaded their house to be sold by the parents.

In this example, *the parents* is the direct object of the active clause which becomes the subject of the passive clause. *To sell their house* is a non-finite clause without an explicitly expressed subject. The boundary between the main clause and the subordinate clause is placed **after** the word *parents*:

They persuaded the parents to sell their house.

They wanted the parents to sell their house.

* The parents were wanted (by them) to sell their house.

They wanted their house to be sold by the parents.

In this example, the noun phrase *the parents* may look like an ordinary object of the preceding word but if you think about its logical status you will admit that it must be part of the object clause *the parents to sell their house*. This is a non-finite clause with an explicitly expressed subject, *the parents*, and an object, *their house*. As such, it can be passivised. The boundary between the main clause and the subordinate clause is placed **before** the word *parents*:

They wanted the parents to sell their house.