

STUDY GUIDE FOR KAMRIN

CHAPTER ONE LESSONS 9 and 10

LESSON 9

Pages 38 - 40

Sentences Without Verbs

Egyptian isn't the only language which can create sentences that have no verbs. Russian, for example. Вот книга ("Here - book" = "Here is the book"). Пётр здесь ("Piotr - here" = "Piotr is here").

The three types of non-verbal sentences listed on page 39 are the only types that exist. Non-verbal sentences aren't terribly common in Egyptian, but they provide an easy way to begin our study of more complicated sentence - which aren't too far off.

There isn't much additional to say about nominal sentences.

But there is for adjectival sentences. Adjectives add description to nouns, such as "green car" or "big green car". Adjectives never "modify" nouns. "Modify" is an outdated term used as jargon by grammarians - you won't find me using it. Adjectives used in this way actually narrow the focus sufficiently until you know which car I'm talking about. In Egyptian, unlike English, adjectives used like that follow their nouns.

Unless the adjective isn't actually narrowing the focus. When I say "the woman is excellent" I assume you already know which woman I'm talking about. So no further narrowing is required, all I'm doing is identifying a feature of hers. In this case, Egyptian puts the adjective in front of the noun (it has no other place to put it). When used in this way, the Egyptian adjective is always, as far as I know, masculine singular which is the default form for an adjective. Only the masculine singular, in Egyptian, has no endings. That's really the key. It's just happens that the zero-ending form, which doesn't identify any particular grammatical number or gender, is the same as the masculine singular.

Adverbial sentences should really be called "prepositional sentences" or something like that. Modern, and possibly older, grammars of Egyptian treat the term "adverbial" like a garbage dump, if they can't figure out what else to call a construction they call it "adverbial". Nonsense. Oh, well.

You will encounter all three of these sentence types later on in this book - some of them after you've had a good chance to forget them. It's not a bad idea to return to these two pages for a review from time to time.

Homework: Exercise 7 on page 40, post as HW07. Write each item in MdC and translate into English.

LESSON 10

Pages 40 - 42

Verbal Sentences

The word order an Egyptian sentence is quite rigid; it is violated only to produce particular emphasis and even then only rarely.

The terms "future, present, past tense" refers to relative time. In other words, if the text we're reading is set in the past, i.e. the context is past tense, then any use of the present tense refers to the present as it was then. Similarly, past tense in a past tense context refers to time preceding the context.

The following Study Guide section on grids if you want, is just something I developed after reading some articles on the subject. You can skip it if you want and go directly to the homework section.

The complete order is:

1. Particles, words which indicate the mood for the following sentence (although some particles are the second word in a sentence, they can, without change of meaning, be thought of as coming first).
2. Verbals, words which operate as verbs. In this book, most or all of them will be.
3. Pronominal Subject, if the subject of the sentence is a pronoun it comes here.
4. Pronominal Indirect Object, if the indirect object is a pronoun it comes here.
5. Pronominal Direct Object, if the direct object is a pronoun it comes here.
6. Subject, if the subject is not a pronoun it comes here.
7. Object, if the direct object is not a pronoun it comes here.
8. Adjunct, any additional words come here.

You can create a grid, like the one shown below, to act as a guide. Remember that the words almost always go into the grid in the order they appear in the Egyptian text. I have never seen an Egyptian sentence which filled up every slot. The headings of each the eight slots identify the eight items in the list above. The lower case letters indicate where the pronominal subject, indirect, and direct objects go.

P	V	s	i	o	S	O	A

Here are a couple of very simple sentences just to show you how this operates.

The first sentence is "Ptah knows the man." *rh pth s.*

P	V	s	i	o	S	O	A
	<i>rh</i>				<i>pth</i>	<i>s</i>	

Now let's try the same sentence with a slight change: "He knows the man"

rh.
f
s

P	V	s	i	o	S	O	A
	<i>rh</i>	<i>f</i>				<i>s</i>	

Contrast this example with the one above. The word order in the second example shows the impact that

the suffix pronoun has on the word order.

More dramatic is "Ptah knows him" *rh*
sw pth followed by "He knows him"

rh.
f

sw.

P	V	s	i	o	S	O	A
	<i>rh</i>			<i>sw</i>	<i>pth</i>		

P	V	s	i	o	S	O	A
	<i>rh</i>	<i>f</i>		<i>sw</i>			

That's enough for now. As I say, you won't need this for a while, if ever, but it's there for you if you do.

Homework: Exercise 8 on page 42, post as HW08. Write each item in MdC and translate into English.