

Summary

- English is built on simple, reliable structures.
- Students crave these structures taught with clarity.
- Students often appreciate visual learning, where grammatical structures are presented visually.
- The Subject-Verb-Object model tells us the names of the parts but not their functions. It's like being able to name a fridge, oven and dishwasher without knowing what they are used for.
- The 1 - 2 - 3 Rule is the central unit of the English language. From it, everything else derives.
- The 1 - 2 - 3 Rule gives teachers and students a fun, visual and logical way of
 - understanding this unit
 - using this unit to build other structures, such as dependent clauses, relative clauses, conditionals, all tenses, compound and complex sentences, active and passive forms, and others.
 - using this unit to teach almost every single grammatical concept in English, such as reflexive pronouns, punctuation, subordinating and coordinating conjunctions, noun and verb definitions, infinitives, gerunds, participles, time phrases, fronting, conjunctions, punctuation, transitive and intransitive verbs, defining, non-defining and reduced relative clauses, noun phrases, verb phrases.

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Brisbane PD Fest

March 21, 2015

Shoebox Grammar

The 1 - 2 - 3 Rule



Position

1



The Noun House

Position

2



*The Verb House
(The Powerhouse)*

Position

3



*The Sharehouse
/ Man Shed
(no full verbs
allowed)*

The Noun always lives here Aka: *Subject*

The Verb always lives here Aka: *Verb*

No-one always lives here Aka: *Object*

The Noun's friends sometimes visit
- *adjectives, prepositions, infinitives,
articles, pointers, counters*

The Verb's friends sometimes visit
- *modals, adverbs, auxiliaries, particles*

The Noun and his friends sometimes visit
- *nouns, adjectives, prepositions,
infinitives, articles, pointers, counters*

Full verb contains

Time	Action	Focus
<i>Past</i>	<i>the verb</i>	<i>Finished</i>
<i>Now</i>		<i>Unfinished</i>
<i>Always</i>		<i>Timeless</i>