

Here are **a few** –not all of them- **general** rules of syntax for the English language. Follow them AND the structures to use the different tenses, and your expression should easily get better !

### I. Adjectives :

Adjectives qualify nouns, but never agree with them !

#### 1) place of adjectives :

##### a) Epithet adjectives :

They come **before** the noun, in the following order :

**Appréciation personnelle + TailleAgeCouleurOrigineMatièreFonction** (= « TACOMF »)

→ I love my beautiful, big, old, black, Italian, leather, walking boots.

##### b) Attributive adjectives :

They come **after** the noun, in the same A+TACOMF order, but are **separated from the** noun **by a verb**.

→ These cats **are** cute, small and black.

#### 2) « and » or « , » :

a) Adjectives are usually separated by a comma (= « , »), except when the adjectives give **different colours or different parts of the same object**.

→ This is a comfortable, brown and red, Spanish house.

b) **The last two attributive adjectives** are always separated by « and ».

→ This house is comfortable, brown and red, **and** Spanish.

### II. Manner, place, and time adverbs and complements :

Adverbs qualify adjectives (→ He is a really nice boy) **and verbs** (→ He beautifully sang at the concert).

#### 1) Frequency adverbs (often, sometimes, rarely, generally...) and adverbs ending in « -ly » :

They usually come (after the first auxiliary), before the BV.

→ I **rarely** have breakfast at home. I **have** always liked drinking coffee at the office.

→ It **has** really **been** raining hard these last few days.

#### 2) Complements (= « C.C. ») :

a) They **usually** go at the end of sentences, **from the more detailed to the wider piece of information** (= de l'information la plus précise à la plus large), in the following **order** :

➤ manner

➤ place

➤ time

→ I **used** to live in Bethesda (= city), Maryland (= state), USA (= country).

→ He arrived on foot in our home, at 10:00 o'clock, on Monday, last week.

= manner

= place

= time

b) You may want to **balance** (= équilibrer) the sentence and put some complements at the beginning of the sentence, if there are too many at the end...

### III. Object complements : cf. Golden Rule #4