

## Putting Words Together – Syntax

We put sounds together to make morphemes. Morphemes make words. Words make phrases and sentences. The way we put words together to make phrases and sentences is called syntax.

*Syntax is the ordering of words in a phrase or sentence.*

We can't put words together in any order.

Make a sentence with these words:

blue, the, is, sky

Only one way will make a grammatical sentence.

So the order of words in a sentence is important.

But some words can't go together no matter how we order them.

Make a sentence with these words:

street, the, ate, dog, the

We know what words *mean*, but we also know that the things words refer to have qualities that are separate from their meanings.

Street is not a food and can't be eaten.

Street is also not a living thing and can't eat anything.

A dog is a living thing and eats, but it can't eat a street.

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Here is a perfectly grammatical sentence:

*Colorless green ideas sleep furiously.*

Can you figure out why it doesn't make sense?