

- **obwohl** (*although*) is the most common of these.
 Ich bin Tennis spielen *I went to play tennis*
 gegangen, **obwohl** ich *although I was very*
 sehr müde war. *tired.*

An everyday alternative to **obwohl** is **zwar ... aber** (*although*):

Sie ist **zwar** sehr beliebt, *Although she's very popular,*
aber (sie ist) nicht sehr *she's not very intelligent.*
 intelligent.

- **so/wie ... auch** (*however*)
So/Wie schnell du **auch** *However fast you drive, you*
 fährst, du kommst nicht *won't arrive on time.*
 mehr rechtzeitig an.

As in English, the same construction can be used with interrogative pronouns, e.g. **wann ... auch** (*whenever*), **was für ... auch** (*whatever*), **wer ... auch** (*whoever*).

35.3 Conjunctions used with inversion

Some adverbs are frequently used to link clauses and are therefore called adverbial conjunctions. When placed at the beginning of a clause, they are usually followed by inversion of subject and verb (36.1.2). Conjunctions in this group include:

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| allerdings | <i>admittedly, to be sure</i> |
| dagegen | <i>on the other hand</i> |
| deshalb | <i>therefore</i> |
| freilich | <i>admittedly, to be sure</i> |
| sonst | <i>otherwise</i> |
| trotzdem | <i>nevertheless, anyway</i> |

Der Urlaub war insgesamt *The holiday was in general*
 sehr schön, **allerdings/** *very good. Admittedly it rained*
freilich hat es viel *a lot.*
 geregnet.

36 Word order

Word order in German can be much more flexible than in English, because subjects and objects are differentiated by case endings; the word order can therefore be varied for reasons of emphasis. However, there is a 'standard', unemphatic order for main clause statements (36.1), questions and commands (36.2) and subordinate clauses (36.3). The position of **nicht** is treated in 13.1.

36.1 Main clause statements

■ 36.1.1 Subject and verb: standard order

In main clauses the subject is normally the first element. The second element is almost always the conjugated verb (verb 1). In the case of verbs with more than one part, the non-conjugated part (verb 2) is placed at the end of the clause. Thus the verb provides a kind of 'bracket' dividing a sentence into three different parts: an initial position before the first bracket (**Vorfeld**), a main part inside the bracket (**Mittelfeld**) and a final position after the second bracket (**Nachfeld**).

| <i>Vorfeld</i> | <i>Verb 1</i> | <i>Mittelfeld</i> | <i>Verb 2</i> | <i>Nachfeld</i> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Sie | kam | gestern um ein Uhr. | | |
| Ich | möchte | nicht ins Kino | gehen. | |
| Ich | habe | ihm 20 Euro | gegeben, | weil ... |
| Ihr | seid | viel schneller | gefahren | als wir. |
| Sie | ist | mittags ins Café | gegangen | und nicht ins Büro. |

(*She came yesterday at one o'clock. I don't want to go to the cinema. I gave him 20 euros, because ... You drove much faster than we did. She went to the café at lunchtime and not to the office.*)