

Anything preceding the first element, such as interjections, **ja/nein** and names of persons addressed, is regarded as standing outside the clause and is usually separated from it by a comma:

Ach, ich fühle mich nicht gut. *Oh, I don't feel well.*
Nein, wir machen das nicht. *No, we won't do that.*
Beate, ich komme mit. *Beate, I'm coming with you.*

A co-ordinating conjunction (35.1) also precedes the first element and does not affect the word order:

Sie ist nett, **aber** sie kann *She is nice but she*
 keinen Spaß vertragen. *can't take a joke.*

■ **36.1.2** Subject and verb: inversion for emphasis
 Although the subject is usually placed in the initial position (**Vorfeld**), another word, a phrase or a subordinate clause may be placed here, often to give it emphasis. The positions of subject and verb are then inverted:

Jetzt hole ich einen Kaffee. *Now I'll get a coffee.*
In München ist die *The plane has just landed*
 Maschine gerade gelandet. *in Munich.*

■ 36.1.3 Special verbs

a In verb combinations of more than two parts (e.g. a double infinitive or a compound passive tense) the non-conjugated part of the auxiliary verb (verb 3) is placed at the end of the clause:

Vorfeld	Verb 1	Mittelfeld	Verb 2	Verb 3
Wir	hätten	das Auto	verkaufen	sollen.
Ich	werde	dies noch	erledigen	müssen.
Sie	ist	von ihrem Freund	abgeholt	worden.

*(We should have sold the car. I'll still have to do that.
 She was picked up by her boyfriend.)*

b When separable verbs (28.3) are used in the simple tenses, the prefix is placed at the end of the clause:

Sie **ruft** ihn **an**. *She's going to phone him.*

In compound tenses or with a modal auxiliary, the prefix remains joined to the separable verb at the end of the clause:

Er hat das Licht **ausgemacht**. *He switched off the light.*
 Ich möchte **ausgehen**. *I'd like to go out.*

c The reflexive pronoun (27.2) usually immediately follows the conjugated verb:

Wir **verabschieden uns** *We are going to say goodbye*
jetzt. *now.*
 Ich **habe mich** gestern *I caught a cold yesterday.*
erkältet.

However, if there is inversion (36.1.2) and if the subject is a pronoun, the verb and reflexive pronoun are separated by it:

Jetzt verabschieden wir uns.
 Gestern **habe** ich **mich** erkältet.

But:

Gestern **hat sich** Peter erkältet.

■ 36.1.4 Objects and other elements

Most elements in a sentence are placed inside the bracket formed by the different parts of the verb (**Mittelfeld**). The **Nachfeld** remains for subordinate clauses, comparative phrases and occasionally for other elements if these are stressed.

a Objects may be nouns, pronouns or phrases. As in English, the indirect object (8.1.3) normally precedes the direct object (8.1.2):

Sie hat **ihm** (*dat.*) **einen** *She gave him a ring.*
Ring (*acc.*) geschenkt.