

Basic Grammar

My daughter, who is ten, bought a cake for her brother,
paying for it with her own money, in order to say, “I love you.”

Component	Definition	Examples	Rule on when to break off
Verb	Verbs are actions and tell us what happened, is happening or will happen. The exception to this is the verb “to be” which tells us what is.	My daughter... bought a cake who is ten paying for it in order to say to say, “I love you.”	A proposition is a verbal idea—a simple thought. Thus, new verbs are generally broken off into new propositions.
Subject	The subject of a verb tells us who or what did the verb.	My daughter ...bought a cake who is ten to say, “I love you.”	
Object	The object of a verb answers the <i>what?</i> question we are left with after noting the subject and verb.	My daughter...bought a cake who is ten in order to say, “I love you.”	
Infinitive	An infinitive is the basic form of a verb, often used to indicate purpose.	in order to say	Purpose infinitives only
Participle	A participle is the -ing form of a verb which can function as an adverb, adjective or noun.	bought a cake... paying for it	Adverbial participles only
Substantival	A substantival clause is a verbal phrase that <i>at a whole</i> is functioning like a noun.	in order to say, “I love you.”	Complex substantivals only
Relative clause	A relative clause is a “normal” (i.e. finite) verbal clause that connects to the rest of the sentence via a relative pronoun.	My daughter, who is ten , ...	Complex relative clauses, as well as those playing a non-defining role
Prepositional phrase	A prepositional phrase is a non-verbal “add-on” to a proposition which includes a preposition and an object of that preposition.	bought a cake for her brother paying for it paying... with her own money	Only those that significantly affect the logic of the text