

# Headers & Tails

In real-time conversation, we don't always speak in neat, perfectly structured sentences. Instead, we often organize information in ways that support how people listen and understand. Headers and tails help listeners process what we're saying more easily — in real time.

## Headers

Headers and tails are often used in spoken language but are rare in writing. A header appears at the beginning of a sentence and helps listeners understand what is being talked about. Headers can be noun phrases or full clauses. They are usually followed by a pronoun (underlined in the examples) that refers back to the header:

Headers (information placed at the beginning, followed by a pronoun)

- My neighbor's son, he just started university in Australia.
- This old movie, it always makes me laugh.
- Traveling alone, that really helps you grow as a person.
- That little café near the station, it has the best coffee in town.

## Tails

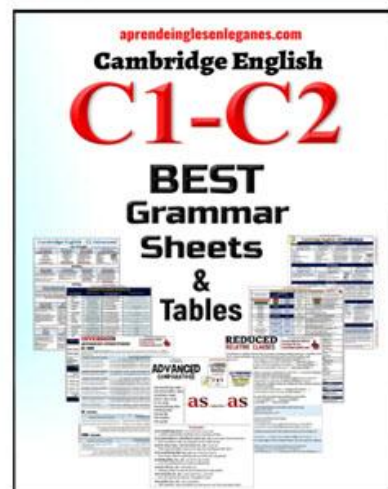
Tails, on the other hand, appear at the end of a sentence. They are usually noun phrases that clarify what the pronoun mentioned earlier (underlined in the examples) refers to. Like headers, tails make it easier for the listener to follow what's being referred to:

- I think she could win the whole competition, Emily.
- It's one of the busiest cities in the world, London.
- He's always been a bit of a risk-taker, my uncle Joe.
- He's always late to meetings, Mark.

# C1-C2

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