Linguistic devices

mindmap by D.Potter

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- **passive**
  - lexical meaning
    - when object is more important than the subject
    - when subject is unknown or obvious
  - when you need distance
    - being polite
    - avoid direct criticism
    - usually in a formal context
  - writing reports
    - focus on results (objects) rather than actors (subject)
  - instructions
    - infinitive structure
      - *Tablets to be taken before each meal*
  - notes, memorandums
  - journalistic style (headlines)
    - more impact

- **ellipsis**
  - omitting words
    - pronouns
    - auxiliary verbs
    - definite / indefinite articles
    - determiners

- **adverbial phrase**
  - *In general*
  - *In my opinion*
  - use of gerund
    - fixed expressions
      - *Generally speaking*
      - *Taking into account*
      - *Regarding*
    - meaning 'because / considering'
      - *Seeing that*
      - *Bearing in mind*

- **adverbs**
  - *Generally*
  - *Personally*

- **participle clauses**
  - reduced passive clause
    - *The photo (that was) taken last year is interesting*
  - past participle clause
    - *Surprised, I couldn't say anything*
  - perfect participle
    - *Having seen this film 3 times, I don't want to watch again*

- **conjunctions**
  - main clause
  - subordinate clause
  - relative clause
    - definite (no commas)
      - that (or which) (for an object)
      - who / that (for a person)
    - indefinite (commas)
      - which (or that) (only for an object)
      - who (only for a person)

- **cleft sentence**
  - (It is important to learn English)
    - *What is important is to learn English*
    - *The important thing is to learn English*

- **inversion**
  - emphasising
    - **adverb + adjective + subject + object**
    - *However simple it may be...*
    - *How difficult it is I don't know*
    - *Much unexpected as it may be, I still want to go there*
  - surprise
    - *How surprising (it is)*
  - limiting adverbs / adverbial phrases
    - **adverbial phrase + auxiliary verb + subject + lexical verb + object**
    - *The food was not only tasty, it was also original*
    - *Not only was the food tasty, it was also original*
    - not until / only when / only after
      - inversion in the main clause
      - *Only after I have read its review do I read a book*

- **concessive clause**
  - *Try as I might, I couldn't do it*
  - *Surprising as it may seem, I couldn't do it*

- comparative
- superlative