Students beginning the study of German often fail to learn to see the Big Picture of the grammar of German. Therefore this Überblick (overview) will often make comparisons to parallel structures in English which would not only be useful but perhaps seven interesting. Where now you may feel that you're lost in a wilderness of word-endings, this Overview hopes to lift you out and raise you high enough that you can see trails through this forest, and that this forest is not endless but opens up eventually to wide spaces and green pastures. There are no prerequisites!

**THE WORD TREE**

verbs are also distinguished as

a) auxiliary vs. main verbs: I have been running (where v1 and v2=auxiliary, v3=main verb)
b) action vs state-of-being (=linking) verb: she swims fast vs the water looks cold
c) transitive (with dir. obj.) vs intr. (no d.o.) verb: the U-boat sank the ship vs the ship sank
d) simple form: I eat hamburgers (I'm not a vegetarian)
e) progressive form: I'm eating a hamburger
f) emphatic form: although I'm a vegetarian I do eat eggs

agrees with subject in person and number

is axis of German sentence

is 1st half of "split" German predicate

is 2nd half of "split" German predicate

pertain to syntax