§730.—The Substantive as Object of the Sentence: The normal position of the substantival object is after the predicate, and the objectival concord in agreement, when used, invariably immediately precedes the verb stem:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Ngibona umuntu (I see a person)} \\
\text{Ngiyambona umuntu (I see the person)} \\
\text{Bengisabafuna labobantu (I was still wanting those people).}
\end{align*}
\]

§731.—The Employment or Otherwise of the Objectival Concord as well as the Substantival Object: There are cases when the substantival object is expressed and the objectival concord may be expressed or not. In the former case the nearest approach to the significance of the definite article in Zulu is conveyed. It is noticeable that in present time, the indefinite present tense is generally used without the concord, and the continuous present tense with the concord. In immediate past time, the contracted perfect is used without the concord, and the normal perfect with the concord. In the cases of the negative, the remote past, and the future tenses, there is no tense division.

\( \text{(a) Simple Present (positive):} \)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Ngibona umuntu (I see a person)} \\
\text{Ngiyambona umuntu (I see the person)} \\
\text{Ngilethela umfundisi incwadi (I am bringing the teacher a book)} \\
\text{Ngiyamlethela umfundisi incwadi (I am bringing the teacher—who told me to do so—a book).}
\end{align*}
\]

\( \text{(b) Exclusive Present (positive):} \)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Sengibona umuntu (I now see a person)} \\
\text{Sengiyambona umuntu (I now see the person)} \\
\text{(see §802 et seq.)}
\end{align*}
\]

\( \text{(c) Simple Present (negative):} \)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Angiboni-n'doda (I see no man)} \\
\text{Angiyiboni indoda (I don't see the man)} \\
\text{Akhashayi-bantu (He strikes nobody)} \\
\text{Akaphashayi abantu (He does not strike the people)} \\
\text{Asifuni-bantu benkosi (We do not want chief's people)} \\
\text{Asibafuni abantu benkosi (We do not want the people of the chief)} \\
\text{Asifuni-basensini (We do not want kraal folk)} \\
\text{Asibafuni abasensini (We do not want the people from the kraal)} \\
\text{Abafuni-zonke (They do not want all of them)} \\
\text{Abafuni-zonke (They do not want any of them)} \\
\text{Asifuni-labobantu (Those are not the people we want)} \\
\text{Asibafuni labobantu (We don't want those people)}
\end{align*}
\]

Note also:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Aunginasihlalo (I have no chair)} \\
\text{Aunginiso isihlalo (I have not the chair)}
\end{align*}
\]

\( \text{(d) Immediate Past (positive):} \)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Sibeni: inkabi (We saw an ox)} \\
\text{Siyiboni: inkabi (We saw the ox)}
\end{align*}
\]

\( \text{(e) Remote Past (positive):} \)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Sa:bona i:hlashi (We saw a horse)} \\
\text{Sa:bina i:hlashi (We saw the horse)}
\end{align*}
\]

\( \text{(f) Future:} \)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Sizobona isilo (We shall see a leopard)} \\
\text{Sizosibona isilo (We shall see the leopard)}
\end{align*}
\]

§732.—In Zulu there is no sentence stress used to indicate emphasis, but word order may be altered to produce the same effect. In this way the normal order of the object after the verb may be altered, and it may be placed first in the sentence,
in which case it becomes a copulative, and the predicate is
made relative:

Yizinkomo engizifunisayi (It is cattle I badly want)
Ngumuntu engimbonyayo (It is a person I see).

Vowel Elision with Nouns

§733.—Under certain circumstances the initial vowel of
a noun may be elided, but whenever this is done (provided
the resultant remains a noun) the noun becomes part of a
new word-group, and ceases to be a separate word.

(1) After a negative predicate of absolute negation:

Akukho-zinkomo (There are no cattle)
Angiboni-muntu (I see no person) (cf. §731(c)).

Contrast:

Azikhizo izinkomo (The cattle are not there)
Angimboni umuntu (I don’t see the person).

Other examples (including indefinite positives):

Awenyikuphiwa-lutho (You won’t be given
anything)
Angibonang-a-muntu (I saw nobody)
Kukhona-muntu lapha na: ? (Is there anyone
here?)
Ubona-sihlalo na: ? (Do you see any chair?)
Eafuna-lutho na: ? (Do they want anything?)

(2) After a demonstrative pronoun, when a single word-
group invariably results:

lababantu (these people)
lezozinkomo (those cattle)
lomfana (this boy)
lawayamahlashi (yonder horses).

(3) After absolute pronouns of the 1st and 2nd persons,
and in rare instances after those of the 3rd person:

thina-bantu (we people)
wenalikhashi (thou horse)
Uthi: yena-muntu (He, the person, said).

1Initial vowels of nouns are elided in the formation of vocative inter-
jectives, and locative and other adverbs.
4.e., axiomatic negative, cf. § 836.

§734.—Further cases of initial elision, of a double type,
resulting in a compound may be considered as figures of
speech; in this it will be seen that qualificatives similarly
lose their initial vowels:

umuntu lolo > muntu-lowo (that person)
i:kaai elihle > kati-lihle (pretty cat)
inja yezulu > njya-yazulu (hound of Heaven).

Notice also:

Letha zami-zonke or zonke-zami (Bring all of mine).

§735.—Nouns may unite in one word-group with the
predicate, or quantitative pronoun or qualitative pro-
noun preceding, in which case the final vowel of the first
word is elided.

Ngisane’ukuhamba
Ngisana ukuhamba
Ba.theng’inkabi
Ba.thenga inkabi
abany’abantu
abanye abantu
esinkul’izinja
esinkul’izinja
okwang’ukudla
okwami ukudla
bonka abantu
bonke abantu
zodwa izimbuzi
zodwa izimbuzi

(I want to travel)
(They bought an ox)
(other people)
(big dogs)
(my food)
(all people)
(only goats).

Note: As elision in these cases is optional, it is advisable
in ordinary writing to avoid the forming of word-groups,
and to leave it to the quick reader to make the elisions
automatically.

§736.—When preceded by the conjunctive formative,
na-, one word-group invariably results, and, in the case of
nouns succeeding, coalescence of the initial vowel with the
-a- of na- takes place in all cases except that of Class 1a
plural. The resulting coalescence is as follows: \(a + a = a,\)
\(a + i = e, a + u = o\). In the case of Class 1a plur., the resultant
is usually awo; though sometimes the -a- is elided (cf. §723):

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{u:bisi namanzi} (milk and water)
  \item \textit{ubaba nomane} (my father and my mother)
  \item \textit{inkosi nenduna} (the chief and the captain)
  \item \textit{izinja namakhashi nezinkomo} (dogs and horses and
cattle)
  \item \textit{i:khala neso nobuso} (the nose, the eye and the face)
  \item \textit{o:nina nawo:dadewabo} (their mothers and their
sisters).
\end{itemize}

§737.—Principal and Subsidiary Objects: Applied and
causative forms of transitive verbs may have two objects
expressed or understood, the one being the object of the
simple form of the verb, and the other the object of the
derived form. It is the latter which becomes the principal
object, and which may be represented by an objectival
concord; the former becomes subsidiary in importance, and
in word-order, and can never be represented by an objectival
concord. (Cf. §§361, 376.)

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{Bamlethela umjana incwadi} (They brought—for the
  boy a book)
  \item \textit{Isintombi zisisifunzi elina amazwi} (The girls are
    reading for us the words)
  \item \textit{Sizimbulalela nina zona} (We shall kill them for you)
  \item \textit{Isalukasi sa:siphuzisa amasi} (The old woman made
    us drink some sour milk)
  \item \textit{Bakhise abejundisi izindlu} (Help the teachers to
    build the houses)
  \item \textit{Masizishengise izinsizwe izinyamazane} (Let us show
    to the young men the buck).
\end{itemize}

§738.—When, however, the action concerns the person
directly, a simple form of the verb (instead of the applied
form) may take principal and subsidiary objects:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{Abafana ba:ngihlubula ingubo yami} (The boys
    stripped me of my garment)
  \item \textit{Ba:baphanga abafanwethu imphala yabo} (They robbed
    our brothers of their goods)
  \item \textit{Ungisisa ubuso ngommese} (He cuts my face with a
    knife)
  \item \textit{Nga:mshaya isihlathi} (I smacked his cheek; lit.
    I smacked him the cheek)
  \item \textit{Ba:mgedwa isisu} (They wounded him in the stomach;
    lit. they wounded him the stomach)
  \item \textit{Umtwana angangunywe u:wini lwakhe} (A child
    might have his tongue cut off).
\end{itemize}

§739.—Substantives in Apposition: Substantives may be
placed together in apposition to one another, the one further
explaining the other, whether the substantives be noun and
noun, noun and pronoun, or pronoun and pronoun:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{umPande inkosi} (Mpande, the chief)
  \item \textit{abantu bona} (the people, they)
  \item \textit{lababantu} (these, the people)
  \item \textit{abakhulu labo} (the big ones, those).
\end{itemize}

§740.—When substantives in apposition are subject or
object of the verb, the concord of the first or more important
one is used:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{umPande inkosi ufile} (Mpande, the chief, is dead)
  \item \textit{Inkosi uMpondle file} (The chief, Mpande is dead)
  \item \textit{Lesosilwane ingwe sinolaka} (That animal, the
    leopard, is fierce)
  \item \textit{Ngiyisibulele ingwe isilwane esesabikayo} (I have
    killed the leopard, a terrifying animal)
  \item \textit{Ngisibulele isilwane esesabikayo ingwe} (I have killed
    the terrifying animal, a leopard).
\end{itemize}

§741.—Of substantives in apposition it is always the first
which undergoes inflexion to form a possessive, a copulative,
locative adverb, etc., the second remaining uninflected:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{enqoleni leyo kuleyongola} \{in that wagon\}
  \item \textit{kubo bonke} \{to all of them\}
\end{itemize}