

Word order 1: verb + object; place and time

A Verb + object

The *verb* and the *object* normally go together. We do not usually put other words between them:

	<i>verb</i>	<i>object</i>	
I	like	my job	very much. (<i>not</i> I like very much)
Our guide	spoke	English	fluently. (<i>not</i> spoke fluently English)
I didn't	use	my phone	yesterday.
Do you	eat	meat	every day?

Two more examples:

- I lost all my money and I also **lost my passport**.
(*not* I lost also my passport)
- At the end of this street you'll **see a supermarket** on your left.
(*not* see on your left a supermarket)

B Place

The *verb* and *place* (where?) normally go together:

go home **live in a city** **walk to work** etc.

If the verb has an *object*, the order is:

	<i>verb</i>	<i>object</i>	<i>place</i>
We	took	the children	to the zoo . (<i>not</i> took to the zoo the children)
Don't	put	anything	on the table .
Did you	learn	English	at school?

C Time

Normally *time* (when? / how often? / how long?) goes after *place*:

	<i>place</i>	<i>time</i>
Ben walks	to work	every morning . (<i>not</i> every morning to work)
I'm going	to Paris	on Monday .
They've lived	in the same house	for a long time .
We need to be	at the airport	by 8 o'clock .
Sarah gave me a lift	home	after the party .
You really shouldn't go	to bed	so late .

Sometimes we put *time* at the beginning of the sentence:

- On Monday** I'm going to Paris.
- After the party** Sarah gave me a lift home.

Some time words (for example, **always/never/usually**) go with the verb in the middle of the sentence. See Unit 110.

Exercises

109.1 Is the word order OK or not? Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1 Did you see your friends yesterday? OK
- 2 Ben walks every morning to work. Ben walks to work every morning.
- 3 Joe doesn't like very much football.
- 4 Dan won easily the race.
- 5 Tanya speaks German quite well.
- 6 Have you seen recently Chris?
- 7 I borrowed from a friend some money.
- 8 Please don't ask that question again.
- 9 I ate quickly my breakfast and went out.
- 10 Did you invite to the party a lot of people?
- 11 Sam watches all the time TV.
- 12 Does Kevin play football every weekend?

109.2 Complete the sentences. Put the parts in the correct order.

- 1 We (the children / to the zoo / took). We took the children to the zoo
- 2 I (a friend of mine / on my way home / met). I
- 3 I (to put / on the envelope / a stamp / forgot). I
- 4 We (a lot of fruit / bought / in the market). We
- 5 They (opposite the park / a new hotel / built). They
- 6 Did you (at school / today / a lot of things / learn)?
Did you
- 7 We (some interesting books / found / in the library).
We
- 8 Please (at the top / write / of the page / your name).
Please

109.3 Complete the sentences. Put the parts in the correct order.

- 1 They (for a long time / have lived / in the same house).
They have lived in the same house for a long time
- 2 I (to the supermarket / every Friday / go).
I
- 3 Why (home / did you come / so late)?
Why
- 4 Sarah (her children / takes / every day / to school).
Sarah
- 5 I haven't (been / recently / to the cinema).
I haven't
- 6 I (her name / after a few minutes / remembered).
I
- 7 We (around the town / all morning / walked).
We
- 8 My brother (has been / since April / in Canada).
My brother
- 9 I (on Saturday night / didn't see you / at the party).
I
- 10 Lisa (her umbrella / last night / in a restaurant / left).
Lisa
- 11 The moon (round the earth / every 27 days / goes).
The moon
- 12 Anna (Italian / for the last three years / has been teaching / in London).
Anna

Word order 2: adverbs with the verb

A Some adverbs (for example, **always, also, probably**) go with the verb in the middle of a sentence:

- Emily **always drives** to work.
- We were feeling very tired and we **were also** hungry.
- The meeting **will probably be cancelled**.

B If the verb is one word (**drives/cooked** etc.), the adverb goes *before* the verb:

	adverb	verb	
Emily	always	drives	to work.
I	almost	fell	as I was going down the stairs.

- I cleaned the house and **also cooked** the dinner. (*not* cooked also)
- Laura **hardly ever watches** television and **rarely reads** newspapers.
- 'Shall I give you my address?' 'No, I **already have it**.'

Note that these adverbs (**always/usually/also** etc.) go before **have to** ... :

- Joe never phones me. I **always have to** phone him. (*not* I have always to phone)

But adverbs go *after* **am/is/are/was/were**:

- We were feeling very tired and we **were also** hungry. (*not* also were)
- You're **always** late. You're **never** on time.
- The traffic **isn't usually** as bad as it was this morning.

C If the verb is two or more words (for example, **can remember / will be cancelled**), the adverb usually goes *after the first verb* (**can/doesn't/will** etc.):

	verb 1	adverb	verb 2	
I	can	never	remember	her name.
Clare	doesn't	usually	drive	to work.
	Are you	definitely	going	away next week?
The meeting	will	probably	be	cancelled.

- You've **always been** very kind to me.
- Jack can't cook. He **can't even boil** an egg.
- Do you still work** for the same company?
- The house **was only built** a year ago and it's **already falling** down.

Note that **probably** goes before a negative (**isn't/won't** etc.). So we say:

- I **probably won't see** you. *or*
I'll **probably not see** you. (*but not* I won't probably)

D We also use **all** and **both** with the verb in the middle of a sentence:

- We **all felt** ill after the meal. (*not* felt all ill)
- My parents **are both** teachers.
- Sarah and Jane **have both applied** for the job.
- My friends **are all going** out tonight.

E Sometimes we use **is/will/did** etc. instead of repeating part of a sentence (see Unit 51):

- Tom says he isn't clever, but I think he **is**. (= he **is clever**)

When we do this, we put **always/never** etc. *before* the verb:

- He always says he won't be late, but he **always is**. (= he **is always** late)
- I've never done it and I **never will**. (= I **will never** do it)

Exercises

110.1 Is the word order OK or not? Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1 Helen drives always to work. Helen always drives to work.
- 2 I cleaned the house and also cooked the dinner. OK
- 3 I have usually a shower in the morning. _____
- 4 I'm usually hungry when I get home from work. _____
- 5 Steve gets hardly ever angry. _____
- 6 I called him and I sent also an email. _____
- 7 You don't listen! I have always to repeat things. _____
- 8 I never have worked in a factory. _____
- 9 I never have enough time. I'm always busy. _____
- 10 When I arrived, my friends already were there. _____

110.2 Rewrite the sentences to include the word in brackets.

- 1 Clare doesn't drive to work. (usually) Clare doesn't usually drive to work.
- 2 Katherine is very generous. (always) _____
- 3 I don't have to work on Sundays. (usually) _____
- 4 Do you watch TV in the evenings? (always) _____
- 5 Martin is learning Spanish, and he is learning Japanese. (also)
Martin is learning Spanish and he _____
- 6 a We were on holiday in Spain. (all) _____
b We were staying at the same hotel. (all) _____
c We had a great time. (all) _____
- 7 a The new hotel is expensive. (probably) _____
b It costs a lot to stay there. (probably) _____
- 8 a I can help you. (probably) _____
b I can't help you. (probably) _____

110.3 Complete the sentences. Use the words in brackets in the correct order.

- 1 What's her name again? I can never remember (remember / I / never / can) it.
- 2 Our cat _____ (usually / sleeps) under the bed.
- 3 There are plenty of hotels here. _____ (usually / it / easy / is) to find a place to stay.
- 4 Mark and Amy _____ (both / were / born) in Manchester.
- 5 Lisa is a good pianist. _____ (sing / she / also / can) very well.
- 6 How do you go to work? _____ (usually / you / do / go) by bus?
- 7 I see them every day, but _____ (never / I / have / spoken) to them.
- 8 We haven't moved. _____ (we / still / are / living) in the same place.
- 9 This shop is always busy. _____ (have / you / always / to wait) a long time to be served.
- 10 This could be the last time I see you. _____ (meet / never / we / might) again.
- 11 Thanks for the invitation, but _____ (probably / I / be / won't) able to come to the party.
- 12 I'm going out for an hour. _____ (still / be / you / will) here when I get back?
- 13 Helen goes away a lot. _____ (is / hardly ever / she) at home.
- 14 If we hadn't taken the same train, _____ (never / met / we / would / have) each other.
- 15 The journey took a long time today. _____ (doesn't / take / it / always) so long.
- 16 _____ (all / were / we) tired, so _____ (all / we / fell) asleep.
- 17 Tanya _____ (says / always) that she'll phone me, but _____ (does / she / never).