

Word order: subject, verb, object

1 In English, the order of words in a statement is subject + verb + object:

SUBJECT + VERB	+ OBJECT
I enjoy	good food.
Peter is watching	TV.
She drank	a cup of coffee.

2 Some verbs (e.g. go) do not have an object:

Steven has gone.
The train didn't arrive.
Ann and Tom are swimming.

Some verbs (e.g. like) always need an object:

SUBJECT + VERB	+ OBJECT
I like	music.
She wants	a drink.

3 After the verb be, we can use an object or an adjective:

OBJECT
a doctor.
Mary is
ADJECTIVE
tired.

We can also put adjectives after the verbs look, seem and feel (see Unit 65):

Mary looks tired.

4 Now look at this example:



John gave Mary an apple.
John gave her an apple.

After some verbs (e.g. give, send, bring), we can talk about a person (Mary, her) and an object:

VERB	+ PERSON	+ OBJECT
He sent	Jane	a book.
Ann made	Tom	a cup of tea.
Ann brought	him	a cup of tea.
He left	them	some money.
She wrote	him	a letter.

5 We usually put information about times or places at the end of the sentence:

PLACE
I had a holiday in Spain.

TIME
They gave their son a watch yesterday.

Practice

A There are ten sentences in the box. Circle each sentence.

She didn't come he is rich they like sport we are studying she is a teacher the bus hasn't arrived they've gone I didn't like the programme they sent me a postcard Paul and Joe have left

B Put the words in brackets () in the correct order.

- (bought – she – a TV)
- 1 (the match – won – they)
- 2 (is eating – he – a pizza)
- 3 (Anna – films – loves)
- 4 (saw – three cats – I)
- 5 (tennis – we – played)
- 6 (wants – a new house – Steve)
- 7 (forgot – my passport – I)
- 8 (a photo – she – is taking)
- 9 (drank – an orange juice – he)

She bought a TV.....
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10 (golf – they – like)
11 (Joe – Mexico – visited)
12 (lost – we – our money)

C If the words are in the correct order, put a tick (✓). If not, write the correct sentence.

► Mary has phoned. ✓
► Brilliant was the film. The film was brilliant.
1 The boys are playing football.
2 Michael not has come.
3 The children are looking tired.
4 Ann eggs does not eat.
5 Mary ate a large piece of cake.

D Write sentences, putting the word in brackets () in the correct place.

► She wrote a letter. (me) She wrote me a letter.
1 They sent an invitation. (us)
2 Sheila gave a present. (Mike)
3 I made a sandwich. (her)
4 Tom brought a newspaper. (Sally)
5 My uncle gave a job. (me)
6 She left a message. (you)
7 Mary is sending some flowers. (them)
8 She brings a coffee every day. (him)

E Put the word in brackets () in the correct place in the sentence.

► (bought) We bought a house in Italy
1 (him) They gave a new car
2 (was) I thirsty this morning.
3 (last night) My friends didn't arrive
4 (her bag) She lost
5 (an actor) David is
6 (a photograph) I sent her
7 (stayed) We in Turkey for a week.
8 (his wife) Paul met in Scotland
9 (yesterday) We didn't win the match
10 (her) I wrote a letter
11 (wonderful) The film was
12 (today) They left
13 (me) She brought a cake
14 (ate) They their dinner at seven o'clock