

# 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:

She is 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:

I had a holiday PLACE  
in Spain.

They gave their son a watch TIME  
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 .