Unit 109 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:

	verb	*object*		
I	**like**	**my job**	very much.	(*not* I like very much)
Our guide	**spoke**	**English**	fluently.	(*not* 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:

	verb	*object*	*place*	
We	**took**	**the children**	**to the zoo**.	(*not* 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*:

	place	*time*	
Ben walks	**to work**	**every morning**.	(*not* 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.

>> Word order in questions → **Units 49–50** Adjective order → **Unit 99** Word order 2 → **Unit 110**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

Unit 109

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 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 110

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)

Word order 1 → **Unit 109**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

Unit 110

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).

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