

Word Order

The correct order for sentences is (S) subject – (V) verb – (O) object – (C) complement. If there are complements of place and time, use the (P) place complement first and the (T) time complement second:

Huda sent the book to Rami.

S V O C

Some birds fly south in winter

S V P T

Practice

Choose the correct sentence.

- a. I go everyday there.
 - b. I everyday go there
 - c. I go there every day.
-
- a. He's been since three o'clock here.
 - b. He's been here since three o'clock.
 - c. He's here been since three o'clock.
-
- a. I went last week there.
 - b. I there went last week.
 - c. I went there last week.
-
- a. Do you come here often?
 - b. Do often you come here?
 - c. Do you here come often?
-
- a. It was this morning on the radio.
 - b. It was on the radio this morning.
 - c. It on the radio was this morning.
-
- a. We'll have the answer soon.
 - b. We'll have soon the answer.
 - c. We'll soon have the answer.

Question Formation

When we are reporting questions (indirect questions), the subject comes before the verb.

- **DIRECT SPEECH:** Where are you going?
- **REPORTED SPEECH:** He asked me where I was going.
- **DIRECT SPEECH:** Why is he shouting?
- **REPORTED SPEECH:** He asked me why he was shouting.

Negative questions

We do not use the auxiliary verb do in reported questions, except in negative questions.

- **DIRECT SPEECH:** Who doesn't like cheese?
- **REPORTED SPEECH:** She asked me who didn't like cheese.

YES / NO Questions

We report yes / no questions with if or whether.

- **DIRECT SPEECH:** Do you want me to come?
- **REPORTED SPEECH:** I asked him if he wanted me to come.

Who, What, Which

When we report questions with who, what or which + to be + complement, the verb "to be" can come before or after the complement.

- **DIRECT SPEECH:** "Who is the champion?"
- **REPORTED SPEECH:** She asked me who the champion was OR She asked me who was the champion
- **DIRECT SPEECH:** "What is your favourite colour?"
- **REPORTED SPEECH:** She asked me what my favourite colour was OR She asked me what was my favourite colour.

Practice

Choose the answer that is the correct example of reported (indirect) questions.

1. Khulood asked Mohammed, "Have you been studying English very long?"

- a. Khulood asked Mohammed had he studying been English.
- b. Khulood asked if Mohammed had been studying English very long.
- c. Khulood asked Mohammed if he had been studying English very long.
- d. Khulood asked Mohammed if he had very long been studying English.

2. Samira asked me, "May I borrow your English dictionary?"

- a. Samira asked me if may she borrow my English dictionary.
- b. Samira asked me if she could borrow my English dictionary.
- c. Samira asked me if could she borrow her English dictionary.
- d. Samira asked me could if she borrow her English dictionary.

3. Monica asked Ron, "Are you going to visit Cambodia?"

- a. Monica asked Ron if is he going to visit Cambodia.
- b. Monica asked Ron if visited had he Cambodia.
- c. Monica asked Ron if was he going to Cambodia.
- d. Monica asked Ron if he was going to visit Cambodia.

4. "Who put salt in my coffee?" he asked.

- a. He asked who had put salt in his coffee.
- b. He asked had who put salt in his coffee.
- c. He asked who put had salt in his coffee.
- d. He asked who putted salt in his coffee.

5 "Are you sorry for what you did?" the mother asked the little boy.

- a. The mother asked the little boy are you sorry for what you did.
- b. The mother asked the little boy if he was sorry for what he did.
- c. The mother asked the little boy if was he sorry for what he had done.
- d. The mother asked the little boy if he is sorry for what he did.

Adjective Order

In English, it is common to use more than one adjective before a noun - for example, "He's a silly young fool," or "she's a smart, energetic woman." When you use more than one adjective, you have to put them in the right order, according to type.

Opinion	An opinion adjective explains what you think about something (other people may not agree with you). Examples: silly, beautiful, horrible, difficult
Size	A size adjective, of course, tells you how big or small something is. Examples: large, tiny, enormous, little
Age	An age adjective tells you how young or old something or someone is. Examples: ancient, new, young, old
Shape	A shape adjective describes the shape of something. Examples: square, round, flat, rectangular
Colour	A colour adjective, of course, describes the colour of something. Examples: blue, pink, reddish, grey
Origin	An origin adjective describes where something comes from. Examples: French, lunar, American, eastern, Greek
Material	A material adjective describes what something is made from. Examples: wooden, metal, cotton, paper
Purpose	A purpose adjective describes what something is used for. These adjectives often end with "-ing". Examples: sleeping (as in "sleeping bag"), roasting (as in "roasting tin")

Some examples of adjective order

	Opinion	Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Origin	Material	Purpose	
a	silly		young			English			man
a		huge		round			metal		bowl
a		small			red			sleeping	bag

Practice

1. Which is the correct order?

- a - a small Canadian thin lady
- b - a Canadian small thin lady
- c - a small thin Canadian lady
- d - a thin small Canadian lady

2. Which is the correct order?

- a - a carving steel new knife
- b - a new steel carving knife
- c - a steel new carving knife
- d - a new carving steel knife

3. Which is the correct order?

- a - a beautiful blue sailing boat
- b - a blue beautiful sailing boat
- c - a sailing beautiful blue boat
- d - a blue sailing beautiful boat

4. Which is the correct order?

- a - an old wooden square table
- b - a square wooden old table
- c - an old square wooden table
- d - a wooden old square table

5. Which is the correct order?

- a - an new French exciting band
- b - a French new exciting band
- c - an exciting French new band
- d - an exciting new French band

6. Which is the correct order?

- a - a red big plastic hat
- b - a big red plastic hat
- c - a plastic big red hat
- d - a big plastic red hat

7. Which is the correct order?

- a - a small Japanese serving bowl
- b - a Japanese small serving bowl
- c - a small serving Japanese bowl
- d - a serving small Japanese bowl

8. Which is the correct order?

- a - a cotton dirty old tie
- b - a dirty cotton old tie
- c - an old cotton dirty tie
- d - a dirty old cotton tie

9. Which is the correct order?

- a - a German brand-new white car
- b - a brand-new German white car
- c - a white brand-new German car
- d - a brand-new white German car

10. Which is the correct order?

- a - a big black plastic shopping bag
- b - a black big shopping plastic bag
- c - a plastic big black shopping bag
- d - a big plastic black shopping bag