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Sentence structure in German

Subject + Verb + Object
(Position 1) (Position 2) (Position 3)

1. Typical *subject placement*. Position 1

- **Ich** habe einen Hund = I have a dog

2. Subject inversion. Position 3

- Einen Hund habe **ich** = I have a dog

3. This complement can be even a subordinate / dependent clause (not form a **complete sentence**):-

Während meiner Kindheit war ich sehr zufrieden = During my youth, I was very happy

4. Interrogation. Subject in position 2 & verb takes [POSITION 1]

Hast du einen Hund? = Do you have a dog?

5. Original imperative forms. There is no subject

Komm jetzt her = Come here now

1. Typical placement of the conjugated verb in position 2

If there is just one verb, it is placed in [POSITION 2]

- Ich **bin** 30 Jahre alt = I am 30 years old

2. If there are **several verbs**, the conjugated verb is placed in [position 2] and the unconjugated one (an infinitive or a participle) in the [last position] of the sentence.

- Ich möchte Deutsch lernen = I want to learn German

3. Subordinate clauses

Ich glaube nicht, dass du heute kommen darfst = I don't think that you may come today

4. Conjugated verb with interrogation

Haben Sie Deutsch in der Schule gelernt? = Did you study German at school? (formal)

"Particles of position 0" means that they do not influence the order of the sentence.

Conjunctions There are some conjunctions that do not take a grammatical position in the sentence.

Ich bin müde **denn** ich habe wenig geschlafen = I am tired because I slept little

Object

dative object + accusative object

Ich schicke meiner mutter einen brief = I am sending a letter my mother

dative pronoun + accusative object

Ich schicke ihr einen brief = I am sending a letter to her

accusative pronoun + dative object

Ich schicke ihn meiner mutter = I am sending it to my mother

accusative pronoun + dative pronoun

Ich schicke ihn ihr = I am sending it to her

Order of complements: TEKAMOLO

Herr Meier hat gestern aus Liebe im Geheimen in München Blumen gekauft

Out of love, Mr. Meier secretly bought flowers in Munich yesterday

Temporal	Kausal	Modal	Lokal
gestern	aus Liebe	im Geheimen	in München

TeKaMoLo — The Theory

When did it happen? TEMPORAL.

Why did it happen? KAUSAL.

How did it happen? MODAL.

Where did it happen? LOKAL.

Place and **time** go in English sentences (Place before Time)

They play handball in the gym every *Monday*

Sie spielen jeden Montag Handball in der Turnhalle (Time before place)



Tschüss

ধন্যবাদ!