



The World of Languages
and Languages of the World



Queen Mary Invented
Languages Scheme

Building Sentences

Let's look at how you will build full sentences in your new language.

Acknowledgements

- Adapted with thanks from the Queen Mary Invented Languages Scheme materials, protected under CC-BY-NC.
- Thanks to Professor David Adger and Dr Coppe van Urksor at <https://creatinglanguages.org/>

Putting Your Words into a Sentence

Word Order

In English we use the word order Subject, Verb, Object (or SVO for short).

The dog eats the food.

Here, the dog is the **subject** – he is doing the eating (doing the action.)

The dog is the **object** – the thing that is being eaten (being done to.)

Point to the subject and object

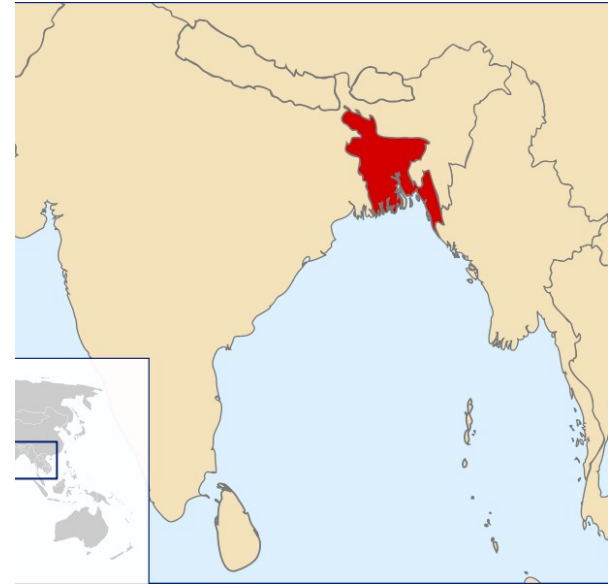
1. The cat chases the mouse
2. The girl throws the ball
3. Jacob eats the chocolate
4. The teachers prepare lessons

Subject Object Verb

In Bangla (the official language of Bangladesh) for example, they use Subject, Object, Verb

Ami boiti porechi
I book read

SOV is very common! It's also the word order of Urdu, Turkish, Korean, Japanese and Tamil.



**Create 3 sentences using SOV.
How do they sound to you?**

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Object Subject Verb

A few languages have the object first: OSV
Object, Subject, Verb.

Most of these languages come from the Amazon Basin, such as Xavanta, Apurinã and Kayabi.

Here's an example from Apurinã.

anana nota apa
pineapple I fetch



**Create 3 sentences using OSV.
How do they sound to you?**

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Verb first

Here are some sentences in Fijian:

edirika na niu ko Eroni

crack the coconut Eroni

‘Eroni is cracking the coconut.’

Here are some sentences in Scottish Gaelic:

Chunnaic mi an cat

saw I the cat

‘I saw the cat.’

Create 3 sentences using OSV.

How do they sound to you?



How about no word order?

Here are some sentences in Warlpiri, an Aboriginal language.

- Ngarrkangku ka wawirri pantirni
- Wawirri ka pantirni ngarrkangku
- Ngarrkangku ka pantirni wawirri
- Pantirni ka wawirri ngarkangku
- Wawirri ka ngarkangku pantirni

The man is spearing the kangaroo.

How do they know what the subject is?

The subject has the affix **-ngku**.

Find the subject in each sentence.



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Design Choice 10

Choose your word order.

Design Choice 11

Determiners: "a" and "the"

- The monster ran through the forest after a man and then the monster speared the man with his claw so that he could roast him in a fire and eat him.
- Monster ran through forest after man and then monster speared man with claw so that he could roast him in fire and eat him.
- Do we need all these **the** and **a** words? Lots of languages, such as Thai, and Korean, don't bother!
- Will you use them?



Have a go at writing a few sentences.

Describe your creature doing something on the island.

Keep it simple. Something along the lines of, "The sheep eats the grass".

Stick to your alphabet and your rules (plurals, word order, capitals, tenses).

Conversations and speech

How shall we add in a conversation?

- I see a volcano!
- The monster says, “I see a volcano!”
- The monster says he/she sees a volcano.

Or we can write about what the monsters think:

The monster thinks he/she sees a volcano.



Write a short dialogue between two of your creatures.



Turn your dialogue into a story,
by writing what your monster
says in each sentence.



Make some of your dialogue
into thoughts, or add a sentence
describing a thought.



You may need to come up with
words for I and you, he and she,
and they.

Off you go...

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