



Word Order

Grammar > Intermediate 5



Exercise 1 – Learning

In this lesson, we will take a look at the basic English sentences and talk about the word order in them.

Simple Sentences

1. Subject - Linking Verb - Complement (SVC)

The 'C' here refers to a '**subject complement**': the part of the sentence that provides details about the subject. The complement can be a noun, adjective, or prepositional phrase:

1. [noun]: **I** *am* a lawyer.
2. [adjective]: **You** *are* beautiful.
3. [prep. phrase]: **My parents** *are* in the US.

2. Subject - Verb (SV)

- **The sun** *rises*.
- **He** *is playing*.
- **They** *woke up*.



3. Subject - Verb - Object (SVO)

- I *bought* a present.
- He *is playing* basketball.

Simple Sentences - Negation / Questions

4. Subject - Verb [negated] - Object/Complement

Helping verbs include '**be**', '**do**', '**will**', '**can**', etc. They help the main verb by adding to its meaning.

To negate a sentence, negate its verb.

In English, we do this by putting '**not**' between the helping verb and the main verb. If there is no helping verb, add the helping verb '**do/does/did**' and negate that:

helping verb + negation + main verb.

*I am a lawyer. → I am **not** a lawyer. (SV[neg]C)*

*He is playing basketball. → He is **not** playing basketball. (SV[neg]O)*

*I bought a present. → I **did not** buy a present. (SV[neg]O)*



5. Interrogative Sentences (Questions)

- **Linking Verb - Subject - Complement (VSC):** Are you tired?
- **Helping verb (do/does) – S – V – O:** Do you play tennis?
- **Question Word – Helping verb (do/does) – S – V – O:** When do you play tennis?

6. Subject - Verb - Indirect Object - Direct Object (SVIODO)

- I gave **her** *a present*.

This word order is used with certain words, such as '**tell**', '**give**', etc. which have both a direct object and an indirect object.

'**Present**' is the direct object whereas '**her**' is the indirect object. We are not doing anything directly to '**her**', but she receives the direct object '**a present**'. This difference is easier to see when we rearrange the sentence into SVO form:

- I gave *a present* **to her**. (*The indirect object is used with 'to'*)



Compound Sentences

7. Sentence - conjunction - Sentence

To join two or more sentences, put **a conjunction** in-between the sentences.

*I came home. I felt unwell. → I came home **because** I felt unwell. (= sentence 1 - conj. - sentence 2)*



Exercise 2 – Identifying

Identify the basic word order (the pattern) of the sentences.

Example: I told her the news at work yesterday. → SVIODO (I told her the news.)

Content:

1. I didn't tell her the news at work yesterday.
2. I can't go with you because I have to work tomorrow.
3. They were watching the movie last night.
4. He bought his son a bike last week.
5. He is swimming.
6. He bought a bike for his son last week.
7. We don't want anything.
8. Do you understand the question?



Exercise 3 – Ordering

Put the words into the correct order.

Example: English She speaks. → She speaks English.

Content:

1. He to me showed his new car.
2. video games I play.
3. me Do know you?
4. don't want We money.
5. cookies him gave some today She.
6. I came it home because was raining outside.
7. Lisa gave a present him.
8. do you Why English speak?