

Basic Sentence Structures in the English Language

A **sentence** is a group of words that
are put together to make **one**
complete thought.

Intro

To understand sentence structures in the English language, you must first have a general understanding of **the types of words that are used to make sentences.**

Noun – a person, place or thing

Singular examples (one):

brother, home, sock, mouse

Plural examples (more than one): brothers, homes, socks, mice



Verb – an action

Examples: jump,
sit, talk, have



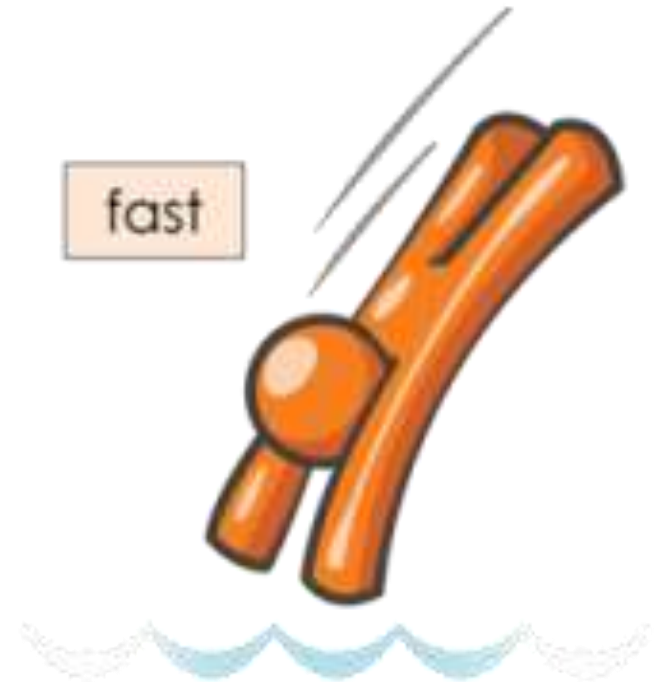
Adjective – describes a noun

Examples: colorful
shirt, funny story,
tall boy



Adverb – describes other words (not nouns)

Examples: jumped
yesterday, talks fast,
sings loud, very pretty,
thankfully for us



Subject – the noun or nouns that
perform the action

Example: The dog jumped.

The **subject** of this sentence is the **noun**,
dog, because it is performing the action of
jumping.

Example: Dogs and cats sleep.

The **subjects** of this sentence are the **nouns**, **dogs and cats**. This is called a ***compound subject*** because there is more than one subject performing the same action.



Object – the noun or nouns that
receive the action

Example: The child drank milk.

The **object** of this sentence is the **noun**,
milk, because the child is drinking the milk.
The milk is *receiving the action*.

Example: She is eating bread and cheese.



The **objects** of this sentence are the **nouns**, **bread** and **cheese**.
The subject is eating them both.

Five basic sentence structures

There are five basic sentence structures in the English language.

1. Subject-Verb

Examples:

The boy plays.

Jack eats.

Sara sits.

2. Subject-Verb-Object

Examples:

The girl pets the cat.

I love apples.

Bill kicks the ball.

3. Subject-Verb-Adjective

Examples:

Lisa is pretty.

They are nice.

I am sad.

4. Subject-Verb-Adverb

Examples:

Maria laughs loudly.

The dog jumps high.

Apples are everywhere.

5. Subject-Verb-Noun

Examples:

I am the teacher.

Jon is a carpenter.

The boy is a student.

Expanding Sentences

The previous examples are *basic sentences*. Basic sentences can be expanded, or lengthened, by **adding** *adjectives, adverbs* and *objects*.

1. Subject-Verb

- Jack eats.
 - This is the basic subject-verb pattern.
- Jack quickly eats.
 - An adverb is added (quickly) to tell how Jack eats.
- Jack quickly eats carrots.
 - An object is added (carrots) to tell what Jack eats.
- Jack quickly eats carrots at home.
 - Another adverb is added (at home) to tell where Jack eats.
- Jack quickly eats fresh carrots at home.
 - An adjective is added (fresh) to tell what kind of carrots Jack eats.

2. Subject-Verb-Object

- Bill kicks the ball.
 - This is a basic subject-verb-object pattern.
- Bill kicks the red ball.
 - An adjective is added (red) to tell the color of the ball.
- Bill kicks the red ball hard.
 - An adverb is added (hard) to tell how Bill kicks the ball.
- Bill kicks the red ball hard every day.
 - Another adverb is added (every day) to tell when Bill kicks the ball.

3. Subject-Verb-Adjective

- She looks pretty.
 - This is the basic subject-verb-adjective pattern.
- She looks pretty tonight.
 - An adverb is added (tonight) to tell when she looks pretty.
- Lisa looks pretty tonight.
 - The subject is identified with a name (Lisa).

4. Subject-Verb-Adverb

- Apples are everywhere.
 - This is the basic subject-verb-adverb pattern.
- Green apples are everywhere.
 - An adjective is added (green) to describe the apples.
- Ripe, green apples are everywhere.
 - A series of adjectives are added (ripe and green) to describe the apples.

5. Subject-Verb-Noun

- The boy is a student.
 - This is the basic subject-verb-noun sentence pattern.
- Jon is a student.
 - The subject is identified with a name (Jon).
- Jon is a smart student.
 - An adjective is added (smart) to tell what kind of student Jon is.
- Jon is a smart student at school.
 - An adverb is added (at school) to tell where Jon is a smart student.

Time to practice!

Follow the link below and take the quiz.

Send a screenshot of your pass rates of at least 70% to your respective TL's email.

<http://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=sentence-patterns-quiz>

THE END!



Resource used for this material: Really-Learn-English.com. 2010-2014