

Word order 1: verb + object; place and time

A

Verb + object

The *verb* and the *object* normally go together. We do not usually put other words between them:

	<i>verb</i>	+	<i>object</i>	
I	like		my job	very much. (<i>not</i> I like very much my job)
Did you	see		your friends	yesterday?
Helen never	drinks		coffee.	

Study these examples. The verb and the object go together each time:

- Do you **eat meat** every day? (*not* Do you eat every day meat?)
- Everybody **enjoyed the party** very much. (*not* enjoyed very much the party)
- Our guide **spoke English** fluently. (*not* spoke fluently English)
- I lost all my money and I also **lost my passport**.
(*not* I lost also my passport)
- At the end of the street you'll **see a supermarket** on your left.
(*not* see on your left a supermarket)

B

Place and time

Usually the *verb* and the *place* (where?) go together:

go home **live in a city** **walk to work** etc.

If the verb has an *object*, the place comes after the *verb + object*:

take somebody home **meet a friend in the street**

Time (when? / how often? / how long?) usually goes after *place*:

	<i>place</i>	+	<i>time</i>	
Ben walks	to work		every morning.	(<i>not</i> every morning to work)
Sam has been	in Canada		since April.	
We arrived	at the airport		early.	

Study these examples. *Time* goes after *place*:

- I'm going **to Paris on Monday**. (*not* I'm going on Monday to Paris)
- They have lived **in the same house for a long time**.
- Don't be late. Make sure you're **here by 8 o'clock**.
- Sarah gave me a lift **home after the party**.
- You really shouldn't go **to bed so late**.

It is often possible to put *time* at the beginning of the sentence:

- On Monday** I'm going to Paris.
- Every morning** Ben walks to work.

Some time words (for example, **always/never/usually**) go with the verb in the middle of the sentence. See Unit 110.

Exercises

109.1 Is the word order right or wrong? Correct the sentences where necessary.

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Everybody enjoyed the party very much. | OK |
| 2 | Ben walks every morning to work. | Ben walks to work every morning. |
| 3 | Joe doesn't like very much football. | _____ |
| 4 | I drink three or four cups of coffee every morning. | _____ |
| 5 | I ate quickly my breakfast and went out. | _____ |
| 6 | Are you going to invite to the party a lot of people? | _____ |
| 7 | I phoned Tom immediately after hearing the news. | _____ |
| 8 | Did you go late to bed last night? | _____ |
| 9 | Did you learn a lot of things at school today? | _____ |
| 10 | I met on my way home a friend of mine. | _____ |

109.2 Put the parts of the sentence in the correct order.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | (the party / very much / everybody enjoyed) | Everybody enjoyed the party very much. |
| 2 | (we won / easily / the game) | _____ |
| 3 | (quietly / the door / I closed) | _____ |
| 4 | (Tanya / quite well / speaks / German) | _____ |
| 5 | (Sam / all the time / TV / watches) | _____ |
| 6 | (again / please don't ask / that question) | _____ |
| 7 | (football / every weekend / does Kevin play?) | _____ |
| 8 | (some money / I borrowed / from a friend of mine) | _____ |

109.3 Complete the sentences. Put the parts in the correct order.

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | (for a long time / have lived / in the same house) | They have lived in the same house for a long time. |
| 2 | (to the supermarket / every Friday / go) | I _____. |
| 3 | (home / did you come / so late) | Why _____? |
| 4 | (her children / takes / every day / to school) | Sarah _____. |
| 5 | (been / recently / to the cinema) | I haven't _____. |
| 6 | (at the top of the page / your name / write) | Please _____. |
| 7 | (her name / after a few minutes / remembered) | I _____. |
| 8 | (around the town / all morning / walked) | We _____. |
| 9 | (on Saturday night / didn't see you / at the party) | I _____. |
| 10 | (some interesting books / found / in the library) | We _____. |
| 11 | (her umbrella / last night / in a restaurant / left) | Laura _____. |
| 12 | (opposite the park / a new hotel / are building) | They _____. |

Word order 2: adverbs with the verb

A

Some adverbs (for example, **always**, **also**, **probably**) go with the verb in the middle of a sentence:

- Helen **always drives** to work.
- We were feeling very tired and we **were also** hungry.
- The concert **will probably be cancelled**.

B

If the verb is one word (**drives/fell/cooked** etc.), the adverb goes *before* the verb:

	<i>adverb</i>	<i>verb</i>	
Helen	always	drives	to work.
I	almost	fell	as I was going down the stairs.

- I cleaned the house and **also cooked** the dinner. (*not* cooked also)
- Lucy **hardly ever watches** television and **rarely reads** newspapers.
- 'Shall I give you my address?' 'No, I **already have** it.'

Note that these adverbs (**always/often/also** etc.) go before **have to** ... :

- Joe never phones me. I **always have** to phone him. (*not* I have always to phone)

But adverbs go *after* **am/is/are/was/were**:

- We were feeling very tired and we **were also** hungry.
- Why are you always late? You're **never** on time.
- The traffic **isn't usually** as bad as it was this morning.

C

If the verb is two or more words (for example, **can remember / doesn't eat / will be cancelled**), the adverb usually goes *after the first verb* (**can/doesn't/will** etc.):

	<i>verb 1</i>	<i>adverb</i>	<i>verb 2</i>	
I	can	never	remember	her name.
Clare	doesn't	often	eat	meat.
	Are you	definitely	going	away next week?
The concert	will	probably	be	cancelled.

- You've **always been** very kind to me.
- Jack can't cook. He **can't even boil** an egg.
- Do you still work** for the same company?
- The house **was only built** a year ago and it's **already falling** down.

Note that **probably** goes before a negative (**isn't/won't** etc.). So we say:

- I **probably won't see** you. *or* I will **probably not see** you. (*not* I won't probably)

D

We also use **all** and **both** in these positions:

- We **all felt** ill after the meal. (*not* we felt all ill)
- My parents **are both** teachers. (*not* my parents both are teachers)
- Sarah and Jane **have both applied** for the job.
- We **are all going** out tonight.

E

Sometimes we use **is/will/did** etc. instead of repeating part of a sentence (see Unit 51):

- Tom says he isn't clever, but I think he **is**. (= he **is clever**)

When we do this, we put **always/never** etc. *before* the verb:

- He always says he won't be late, but he **always is**. (= he **is always** late)
- I've never done it and I **never will**. (= I **will never** do it)

Exercises

110.1 Are the underlined words in the right position or not? Correct the sentences where necessary.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Helen drives <u>always</u> to work. | Helen <u>always</u> drives to work. |
| 2 I cleaned the house and <u>also</u> cooked the dinner. | OK |
| 3 I have <u>usually</u> a shower in the morning. | |
| 4 We <u>soon</u> found the solution to the problem. | |
| 5 Steve gets <u>hardly ever</u> angry. | |
| 6 I did some shopping and I went <u>also</u> to the bank. | |
| 7 Jane has <u>always</u> to hurry in the morning. | |
| 8 I <u>never</u> have worked in a factory. | |
| 9 I <u>never</u> have enough time. I <u>always</u> am busy. | |

110.2 Rewrite the sentences to include the word in brackets.

- Clare doesn't eat meat. (often) Clare doesn't often eat meat.
- Katherine is very generous. (always) _____
- I don't have to work on Saturdays. (usually) _____
- Do you watch TV in the evenings? (always) _____
- Martin is learning Spanish and he is learning Japanese. (also)
Martin is learning Spanish and he _____
- a We were on holiday in Spain. (all) _____
b We were staying at the same hotel. (all) _____
c We enjoyed ourselves. (all) _____
- a The new hotel is very expensive. (probably) _____
b It costs a lot to stay there. (probably) _____
- a I can help you. (probably) _____
b I can't help you. (probably) _____

110.3 Complete the sentences. Use the words in brackets in the correct order.

- I can never remember (remember / I / never / can) her name.
- _____ (take / I / usually) sugar in coffee.
- _____ (am / usually / I) hungry when I get home from work.
- Mark and Amy _____ (both / were / born) in Manchester.
- Lisa is a good pianist. _____ (sing / she / also / can) very well.
- Our cat _____ (usually / sleeps) under the bed.
- They live in the same building as me, but _____ (never / I / have / spoken) to them.
- This shop is always very busy. _____ (have / you / always / to wait) a long time to be served.
- My eyesight isn't very good. _____ (I / read / can / only) with glasses.
- _____ (all / were / we) tired, so _____ (all / we / fell) asleep.
- A: Are you tired?
B: Yes, _____ (am / I / always) at this time of day.
- _____ (I / probably / leaving / will / be) early tomorrow.
- I'm afraid _____ (probably / I / be / won't) able to come to the party.
- Helen is away a lot. _____ (is / hardly ever / she) at home.
- _____ (we / still / are / living) in the same place. We haven't moved.
- If we hadn't taken the same train, _____ (never / met / we / would / have) each other.
- Tanya _____ (says / always) that she'll phone me, but _____ (does / she / never).