

Word Order (1) – Verb + Object; Place and Time

A

Verb + object

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

verb + object

I	like	children	very much. (<i>not</i> I like very much children)
Did you	see	your friends	yesterday?
Ann often	plays	tennis.	

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

- Do you **clean the house** every weekend? (*not* Do you clean every weekend the house?)
- Everybody **enjoyed the party** very much. (*not* Everybody enjoyed very much the party)
- Our guide **spoke English** fluently. (*not* spoke fluently English)
- I not only lost all my money – 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

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*:

place + time

Tom walks	to work	every morning. (<i>not</i> Tom walks every morning to work)
She has been	in Canada	since April.
We arrived	at the airport	early.

Study these examples. Notice how *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 8:00**.
- Sarah gave me a ride **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** Tom walks to work.

Some time words (for example, *always/never/often*) usually go with the verb in the middle of the sentence. See Unit 106.

Exercises

105.1 Is the word order right or wrong? Correct the sentences that are wrong.

- Everybody enjoyed the party very much. RIGHT
- Tom walks every morning to work. Tom walks to work every morning.
- Jim doesn't like very much soccer. _____
- I drink three or four cups of coffee every morning. _____
- I ate quickly my dinner and went out. _____
- Are you going to invite to the party a lot of people? _____
- I called Tom immediately after hearing the news. _____
- Did you go late to bed last night? _____
- Did you learn a lot of things at school today? _____
- I met on my way home a friend of mine. _____

105.2 Put the parts of the sentence in the right order.

- (the party / very much / everybody enjoyed) Everybody enjoyed the party very much.
- (we won / easily / the game) _____
- (quietly / the door / I closed) _____
- (Diane / quite well / speaks / Chinese) _____
- (Tim / all the time / TV / watches) _____
- (again / please don't ask / that question) _____
- (soccer / every weekend / does Ken play?) _____
- (some money / I borrowed / from a friend of mine) _____

105.3 Complete the sentences. Put the parts in the right order.

- (for a long time / have lived / in the same house)
They have lived in the same house for a long time.
- (to the bank / every Friday / go) I _____.
- (home / did you come / so late) Why _____?
- (her car / drives / every day / to work)
Ann _____.
- (been / recently / to the movies) I haven't _____.
- (at the top of the page / your name / write)
Please _____.
- (her name / after a few minutes / remembered)
I _____.
- (around the town / all morning / walked)
We _____.
- (on Saturday night / didn't see you / at the party)
I _____.
- (some interesting books / found / in the library)
We _____.
- (the children / yesterday / to the zoo / took)
Sally _____.
- (across from the park / a new hotel / are building)
They _____.