

## 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	<b>like</b>	<b>my job</b>	very much. ( <i>not</i> I like very much)
Our guide	<b>spoke</b>	<b>English</b>	fluently. ( <i>not</i> spoke fluently English)
I didn't	<b>use</b>	<b>my phone</b>	yesterday.
Do you	<b>eat</b>	<b>meat</b>	every day?

Two more examples:

- ☐ I lost all my money and I also **lost my passport**.  
(*not* I lost also my passport)
- ☐ At the end of this street you'll **see a supermarket** on your left.  
(*not* see on your left a supermarket)

## B Place

The *verb* and *place* (where?) normally go together:

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

If the verb has an *object*, the order is:

	<i>verb</i>	<i>object</i>	<i>place</i>
We	<b>took</b>	<b>the children</b>	<b>to the zoo.</b> ( <i>not</i> took to the zoo the children)
Don't	<b>put</b>	<b>anything</b>	<b>on the table.</b>
Did you	<b>learn</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>at school?</b>

## C Time

Normally *time* (when? / how often? / how long?) goes after *place*:

	<i>place</i>	<i>time</i>
Ben walks	<b>to work</b>	<b>every morning.</b> ( <i>not</i> every morning to work)
I'm going	<b>to Paris</b>	<b>on Monday.</b>
They've lived	<b>in the same house</b>	<b>for a long time.</b>
We need to be	<b>at the airport</b>	<b>by 8 o'clock.</b>
Sarah gave me a lift	<b>home</b>	<b>after the party.</b>
You really shouldn't go	<b>to bed</b>	<b>so late.</b>

Sometimes we put *time* at the beginning of the sentence:

- ☐ **On Monday** I'm going to Paris.
- ☐ **After the party** Sarah gave me a lift home.

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 OK or not? Correct the sentences where necessary.**

- 1 Did you see your friends yesterday? OK
- 2 Ben walks every morning to work. Ben walks to work every morning.
- 3 Joe doesn't like very much football. .....
- 4 Dan won easily the race. .....
- 5 Tanya speaks German quite well. .....
- 6 Have you seen recently Chris? .....
- 7 I borrowed from a friend some money. .....
- 8 Please don't ask that question again. .....
- 9 I ate quickly my breakfast and went out. .....
- 10 Did you invite to the party a lot of people? .....
- 11 Sam watches all the time TV. .....
- 12 Does Kevin play football every weekend? .....

**109.2 Complete the sentences. Put the parts in the correct order.**

- 1 We (the children / to the zoo / took). We took the children to the zoo.
- 2 I (a friend of mine / on my way home / met). I .....
- 3 I (to put / on the envelope / a stamp / forgot). I .....
- 4 We (a lot of fruit / bought / in the market). We .....
- 5 They (opposite the park / a new hotel / built). They .....
- 6 Did you (at school / today / a lot of things / learn)?  
Did you .....?
- 7 We (some interesting books / found / in the library).  
We .....
- 8 Please (at the top / write / of the page / your name).  
Please .....

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

- 1 They (for a long time / have lived / in the same house).  
They have lived in the same house for a long time.
- 2 I (to the supermarket / every Friday / go).  
I .....
- 3 Why (home / did you come / so late)?  
Why .....?
- 4 Sarah (her children / takes / every day / to school).  
Sarah .....
- 5 I haven't (been / recently / to the cinema).  
I haven't .....
- 6 I (her name / after a few minutes / remembered).  
I .....
- 7 We (around the town / all morning / walked).  
We .....
- 8 My brother (has been / since April / in Canada).  
My brother .....
- 9 I (on Saturday night / didn't see you / at the party).  
I .....
- 10 Lisa (her umbrella / last night / in a restaurant / left).  
Lisa .....
- 11 The moon (round the earth / every 27 days / goes).  
The moon .....
- 12 Anna (Italian / for the last three years / has been teaching / in London).  
Anna .....