72 Word order in statements

1 Subject + verb (+ object)

A statement contains a subject and a verb. It can also contain an object and other phrases. We put a full stop (.) at the end of a statement.

SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT
I	*don't know.*	
Paul	*is reading*	*a magazine.*
The dry weather	*caused*	*a lot of problems.*

If we change the position of the subject and the object, the meaning of the sentence changes:

subject verb object
The boy hit the ball.

subject verb object
The ball hit the boy.

A few verbs have adjectives after them instead of an object (e.g. *be, look, seem, smell, taste*):
*Melanie **is** very angry.*
*That **looks** delicious!*

Adjectives after verbs ➤ Unit 25.3

We often use the *-ing* form of a verb as the subject of the sentence. Here, it is like a noun:
***Swimming** is good for you.*
***Driving** in fog can be dangerous.*

2 Subject + verb (no object)

Some verbs never have an object (e.g. *arrive, come, go, happen, rain, land, wait*).

SUBJECT	VERB
The taxi	*is waiting.*
Our friends	*haven't arrived.*
The plane	*landed.*

⚠ Remember to put the subject BEFORE the verb:
✗ ~~*Then arrived my friends and we had lunch.*~~
✓ *Then **my friends arrived** and we had lunch.*

Other verbs can have an object, but do not always need one:
I'm reading a magazine. I'm reading.
Our team has just won the game! Our team has just won!

3 Building a sentence

NOUN (subject)	VERB	NOUN (object)	PLACE	TIME
We	*are going to meet*	*our friends*	*outside the cinema*	*at 8.30.*
The concert	*will take place*		*in Beijing*	*in June.*
The workmen	*cleared*	*the snow*	*from the streets*	*early this morning.*

This word order is the normal order for the parts of a sentence.
If there is an adverb of manner, too, we put it before place or time:

manner place time
He played well at the game on Saturday.

Adverbs and word order ➤ Unit 28 Word order in questions ➤ Unit 73.1