

4 Subject + verb + *that* clause

A lot of verbs expressing thoughts and speech (e.g. *think, believe, say, complain, know, promise*) are followed by *that* + a clause:

SUBJECT	VERB	that CLAUSE
He	believes	that children should be more polite.
I	complained	that my soup was cold.
The staff in the company	didn't know	that their jobs were in danger.

Verbs followed by *wh-* word + clause ➤ Unit 77.1

Verbs followed by another verb ➤ Module 12

5 Subject + verb + object + object

Some verbs can have an indirect object (usually a person) as well as a direct object (usually a thing):

SUBJECT	VERB	INDIRECT OBJECT (person)	DIRECT OBJECT (thing)
Jonathan	bought	his wife/her	a gold ring.
Panasonic	didn't offer	Chris/him	the job.
The local baker	made	Andy and me/us	a wedding cake.

⚠ We use the word order above with a few common verbs (e.g. *ask, bring, buy, find, give, lend, make, offer, pay, promise, read, send, show, teach, tell, throw* and *write*). But with most verbs it is incorrect:

✗ *Judith described her visitors the house.* ✓ *Judith described the house to her visitors.*

If we put the indirect object second, we need to use a preposition, usually *to* or *for*:

SUBJECT	VERB	DIRECT OBJECT	PREPOSITION + INDIRECT OBJECT
Jonathan	bought	a gold ring	for his wife. / for her.
Panasonic	didn't offer	the job	to Chris. / to him.
The local baker	made	a wedding cake	for Andy and me. / for us.

When we give something to someone, we use *to*; when we do something for someone, we use *for*:

I'm just sending an email to my brother. I won't be long.

Can you find an interesting recipe for me?

This pattern is less common than *I'm sending my brother an email./Can you find me ...*, etc.

⚠ We don't use a preposition before the indirect object when it comes first:

✗ *Jonathan bought for his wife a gold ring.* ✓ *Jonathan bought his wife a gold ring.*

✗ *Jonathan bought for her a gold ring.* ✓ *Jonathan bought her a gold ring.*

6 Adverbials and word order

Adverbials usually come at the end of the sentence:

The National Gallery is in the centre of London. There was no snow last winter.

We usually put adverbials in this order if there is more than one in a statement:

	MANNER (how)	PLACE (where)	TIME (when)
Let's have breakfast		in the Italian coffee bar	before the class tomorrow.
The next train will arrive		at platform 2	in five minutes.
Roger Federer didn't play	very well	at the French Open	last year.

If we want to emphasise an adverbial of time or place, we can put it at the beginning of the sentence:

Last year, Roger Federer didn't play very well. (But this year, unlike last year, he played well.)

More on adverbs and word order ➤ Unit 24