

Help Centres – English Support



Basic Sentence Structure

English Sentences follow five basic structures:

1. **Subject + Verb**

The subject is a noun or pronoun and the verb is the action that the subject does in the sentence. **Intransitive verbs** do not need an object.

- Lisa eats.
- Michael is sleeping.
- I danced.

2. **Subject + Verb + Direct Object**

Some verbs need to have an object to be a complete sentence. These are called **transitive verbs**.

- I like flowers.
- John threw the ball.
- They watched a movie.

3. **Subject + Linking Verb + Complement (Noun or Adjective)**

Linking verbs show a state or explain what something is using nouns or adjectives.

- He is a police officer.
- The movie seems scary.
- Sylvia is beautiful

4. **Subject + Verb + Direct Object + Prepositional Phrase**

Prepositional phrases include a **preposition** + an **object of the preposition**

- They watched a movie at the theater.
- I painted the picture in art class.
- The boys are doing their homework on the computers.

5. **Subject + Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object**

- I sent my grandmother a letter.
- Jason sang us a song.
- My parents bought me a birthday present..

Practice:

A) Look at the following sentences and try to find the sentence pattern of each one.

1. Mark carried the backpack.
2. The students are studying.
3. I called my mother on the telephone.
4. The cat sneezed.
5. That song sounds sad.
6. My father is a mechanic.
7. The wolves howled in the forest.
8. I bought myself some new shoes.
9. My father loves watching sports.

B) Now practice writing a sentence for each sentence type.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.