

ENGLISH GRAMMAR: SYNTAXES AND WORD-ORDER

In the last lesson of English we have described several verb patterns. Now we will see how they are used in English sentences.

The basic structure of an English sentence is **SUBJECT + VERB**.

There are three exceptions to this general rule:

- (1) In the imperative (V2) – Don't smoke! the subject is always 'you' and therefore the subject is omitted (implicit subject).
- (2) In the infinitive form, we usually need an auxiliary verb before the subject. (The main verb comes after the subject) **EXAMPLES:** Can you smoke the cigarette? Let's go shopping. Don't forget to turn on the light! In these examples the subject is always omitted and the order is:

There are several different positions of the main subject or complement of a sentence:

S + V

Example: I understand. They left the shop.

S + V + the subject

Example: I love you. We studied the letter. They've lost the book!

S + V + DO + DO (different subject, after-the-subject)

Example: The children have a story. We bought the flowers. How was your phone?

S + LN (Noun, verb) + OPA (prepositional phrase)

Example: I am a student. He's my cousin. How far are there?

S + LN + OPA (prepositional phrase)

Example: She arrived. She has lost the book. Don't forget!

S + LN + OPA (prepositional phrase) + O

Example: They are from Germany. It's in the lake. How many? The lake.

Write a sentence of your own for each of the above patterns. For the alternative, draw a simple picture to illustrate each one.

S + V S + V + O S + V + DO + DO S + LN + OPA S + LN + OPA + O S + LN + OPA + O