

Unit 1: THE BASIC SENTENCE

Every sentence has a subject and a verb.

Subject and verb

works is not a sentence because we do not learn who or what works; there is a verb, but no subject.

John is not a sentence; there is no verb.

John works is a sentence; there is a subject (**John**) and a verb (**works**).

John, the manager of the store is not a sentence; there is no verb. We do not learn how John and the manager of the store go together.

Here are some sentences:

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>VERB</i>	
John	is	the manager of the store.
John	works	for the manager of the store.
John	is talking	to the manager of the store.
The mountains of Nepal	are	the highest in the world.
The house on the hill	is	very old.

Word order

If a sentence tells us something (a statement), the verb goes after the subject. If a sentence asks us something (a question), one word of the verb goes before the subject.

	<i>VERB</i>	<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>VERB</i>	
<i>STATEMENT</i>		John	is riding	a bicycle.
<i>QUESTION</i>	Is	John	riding	a bicycle?