

Verb patterns

English sentences follow a certain pattern. There are several sentence patterns in English. You don't have to learn all of them, but you should be familiar with the most important ones. The best thing about sentence patterns is that you can create thousands of sentences using just a few patterns.

Subject + transitive verb + direct object

A transitive verb is one that takes an object. The normal order of words in an English sentence is subject + verb + object.

Subject	Transitive verb	Direct object
He	likes	children.
The teacher	punished	the boy.
The protestors	invaded	the platform.
The scoundrels	were given	a good thrashing.
The monk	burnt	himself.
The government	should ban	all militant organizations.

The object is a noun or a noun equivalent. It is the answer to the question 'whom?' or 'what?'.

He likes whom? - children

The teacher punished whom? - the boy

The protestors invaded what? - the platform

The scoundrels were given what? - a good thrashing

Some verbs are not normally followed by objects. These are called intransitive verbs. Examples are: sit, sleep.

Although intransitive verbs cannot take objects, they can be modified by adverbs.

Verb patterns

Please sit down.

The baby was sleeping on the bed.

He sat under the tree.

Subject + verb + object + adverb particle

Some verbs are followed by adverb participles. Examples are: put on, take off, give away, bring up, call in etc. Sometimes the adverb particle is separated from the verb and put after the object.

Subject	Verb	Object	Adverb particle
He	put	his coat	on.
They	called	the doctor	in.
The boy	threw	the ball	away.
His grandmother	brought	him	up.
You	must send	them	back.

The adverb particle goes after the object, when the object is a personal pronoun, or when it is comparatively short.