

Word Order in English

Practice Worksheet: Rules, Sentence Structure, Questions and Inversion

Level: B1-C1 | British English | Grammar practice with answer key

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____
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Before You Start

Basic rule: Most English sentences follow the pattern **Subject + Verb + Object**. Extra information often follows the order **Manner + Place + Time**. In questions, indirect questions and inversion, the word order changes.

Structure	Example
Subject + Verb + Object	She wrote a letter.
Manner + Place + Time	He worked quietly in the library yesterday.
Question word order	Where did you go?
Indirect question word order	Can you tell me where you went?
Inversion	Never have I seen such a view.

Exercise 1: Identify the Sentence Parts

Label the main parts in each sentence: S = subject, V = verb, O = object, M = manner, P = place, T = time.

No.	Sentence	Your answer
1	Mina wrote an email carefully at work yesterday.	S: _____ V: _____ O: _____ M: _____ P: _____ T: _____
2	The students discussed the problem calmly in class this morning.	S: _____ V: _____ O: _____ M: _____ P: _____ T: _____
3	My brother repaired the bike quickly in the garage on Sunday.	S: _____ V: _____ O: _____ M: _____ P: _____ T: _____
4	The manager explained the changes clearly at the meeting last week.	S: _____ V: _____ O: _____ M: _____ P: _____ T: _____

Exercise 2: Put the Words in the Correct Order

Rewrite the sentences using natural English word order.

1. speaks / English / very well / Sara

2. at the station / yesterday / I / saw / Mark

3. bought / a beautiful coat / in London / last winter / she

4. usually / my parents / dinner / at seven / have

5. the instructions / carefully / read / before the test / you should

6. in the garden / played / happily / the children / all afternoon

7. gave / the book / to me / my teacher / after the lesson

8. often / tired / is / he / after work

Exercise 3: Choose the Correct Sentence

Circle or tick the sentence with the most natural word order.

1. a) She speaks very well Spanish. b) She speaks Spanish very well.

2. a) I went to Prague last summer. b) I went last summer to Prague.

3. a) She is always cheerful. b) She always is cheerful.

4. a) Can you tell me where the bank is? b) Can you tell me where is the bank?

5. a) Rarely do we see such talent. b) Rarely we see such talent.

6. a) He explained the rule clearly. b) He explained clearly the rule.

7. a) What I need is more time. b) What I need it is more time.

8. a) The book that she recommended was excellent. b) The book that recommended she was excellent.

Exercise 4: Correct the Word Order Mistakes

Each sentence contains a word order mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. I do not know what does this word mean.

2. Never I have heard such a strange story.

3. They went last weekend to the mountains.

4. She almost drives her children to school every day.

5. He gave to his sister the keys.

6. Can you tell me when does the lesson start?

7. She usually is very patient with beginners.

8. The teacher explained clearly the problem.

9. Not only he arrived late, but he also forgot his homework.

10. I like very much this story.

Exercise 5: Direct and Indirect Questions

Rewrite the direct questions as polite indirect questions. Use the phrase in brackets.

1. Where is the nearest bus stop? (Could you tell me ...)

2. What time does the museum open? (Do you know ...)

3. Why did she leave early? (I wonder ...)

4. How much does this course cost? (Could you tell me ...)

5. Where have they gone? (Do you know ...)

6. When will the results be announced? (I wonder ...)

Exercise 6: Adverb Position

Put the adverb or adverbial phrase in the most natural position.

1. She drinks coffee in the morning. (always)

2. They are late for meetings. (rarely)

3. He has finished his report. (already)

4. We waited for the bus. (outside for twenty minutes)

5. The singer performed. (beautifully at the concert last night)

6. My neighbour complains about noise. (often)

7. The students worked on the project. (quietly in the library yesterday)

8. I have seen such a beautiful garden. (never)

Exercise 7: Inversion for Emphasis

Rewrite the sentences using inversion. Keep the meaning the same.

1. I had never felt so nervous before.

2. She rarely makes mistakes in her writing.

3. He had hardly arrived when the meeting started.

4. We understood the problem only then.

5. You should not open this door under any circumstances.

6. She not only passed the exam, but she also got an excellent mark.

Exercise 8: Cleft Sentences

Rewrite each sentence to emphasise the word or phrase in brackets.

1. Lena found the missing documents. (emphasise: Lena)

2. They met in Manchester. (emphasise: in Manchester)

3. I need a quiet afternoon. (emphasise: a quiet afternoon)

4. The noise annoyed me most. (emphasise: the noise)

5. He forgot the appointment yesterday. (emphasise: yesterday)

Exercise 9: Relative Clauses and Conditionals

Complete each sentence with correct word order.

1. The woman who _____ next door is a doctor. (live)

2. The film that _____ last night was brilliant. (we / watch)

3. Do you remember the place where _____? (we / first / meet)

4. If it _____ tomorrow, we will stay at home. (rain)

5. She would have passed the exam if _____ harder. (she / study)

6. Had I known the truth, _____ earlier. (I / tell / you)

Exercise 10: Mini Writing Task

Write a short paragraph of 80-100 words about a memorable lesson, journey or meeting. Use at least three of these structures: an adverb of frequency, manner-place-time word order, an indirect question, a relative clause, inversion or a cleft sentence.

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1. S Mina; V wrote; O an email; M carefully; P at work; T yesterday.
2. S The students; V discussed; O the problem; M calmly; P in class; T this morning.
3. S My brother; V repaired; O the bike; M quickly; P in the garage; T on Sunday.
4. S The manager; V explained; O the changes; M clearly; P at the meeting; T last week.

Exercise 2

1. Sara speaks English very well.
2. I saw Mark at the station yesterday.
3. She bought a beautiful coat in London last winter.
4. My parents usually have dinner at seven.
5. You should read the instructions carefully before the test.
6. The children played happily in the garden all afternoon.
7. My teacher gave the book to me after the lesson. / My teacher gave me the book after the lesson.
8. He is often tired after work.

Exercise 3

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. a
5. a
6. a
7. a
8. a

Exercise 4

1. I do not know what this word means.
2. Never have I heard such a strange story.
3. They went to the mountains last weekend.
4. She drives her children to school almost every day.
5. He gave the keys to his sister. / He gave his sister the keys.
6. Can you tell me when the lesson starts?
7. She is usually very patient with beginners.
8. The teacher explained the problem clearly.
9. Not only did he arrive late, but he also forgot his homework.
10. I like this story very much.

Exercise 5

1. Could you tell me where the nearest bus stop is?
2. Do you know what time the museum opens?
3. I wonder why she left early.
4. Could you tell me how much this course costs?
5. Do you know where they have gone?
6. I wonder when the results will be announced.

Exercise 6

1. She always drinks coffee in the morning.
2. They are rarely late for meetings.
3. He has already finished his report.
4. We waited outside for twenty minutes for the bus. / We waited for the bus outside for twenty minutes.
5. The singer performed beautifully at the concert last night.
6. My neighbour often complains about noise.
7. The students worked quietly in the library yesterday on the project. / The students worked on the project quietly in the library yesterday.
8. I have never seen such a beautiful garden.

Exercise 7

1. Never had I felt so nervous before.
2. Rarely does she make mistakes in her writing.
3. Hardly had he arrived when the meeting started.
4. Only then did we understand the problem.
5. Under no circumstances should you open this door.
6. Not only did she pass the exam, but she also got an excellent mark.

Exercise 8

1. It was Lena who found the missing documents.
2. It was in Manchester that they met.
3. What I need is a quiet afternoon.
4. It was the noise that annoyed me most. / What annoyed me most was the noise.
5. It was yesterday that he forgot the appointment.

Exercise 9

1. The woman who lives next door is a doctor.
2. The film that we watched last night was brilliant.
3. Do you remember the place where we first met?
4. If it rains tomorrow, we will stay at home.
5. She would have passed the exam if she had studied harder.
6. Had I known the truth, I would have told you earlier.

Exercise 10

Answers will vary. Check that students use clear word order and at least three target structures. Encourage them to underline the structures they used.