Unit 109

Word order 1: verb + object; place and time

A *Verb + object*

The *verb* and the *object* normally go together. We do not usually put other words between them:

	verb +	*object*	
I	**like**	**my job**	very much. (*not* I like very much my job)
Did you	**see**	**your friends**	yesterday?
Helen never	**drinks**	**coffee**.	

Study these examples. The verb and the object go together each time:

- Do you **eat** **meat** every day? (*not* Do you eat every day meat?)
- Everybody **enjoyed** **the party** very much. (*not* enjoyed very much the party)
- Our guide **spoke** **English** fluently. (*not* spoke fluently English)
- I lost all my money and I also **lost** **my passport** . (*not* I lost also my passport)
- At the end of the street you'll **see** **a supermarket** on your left. (*not* see on your left a supermarket)

B *Place and time*

Usually the *verb* and the *place* (where?) go together:
go home **live in a city** **walk to work** etc.

If the verb has an *object*, the place comes after the *verb + object:*
take somebody home **meet a friend in the street**

Time (when? / how often? / how long?) usually goes after *place:*

	place +	*time*	
Ben walks	**to work**	**every morning**.	(*not* every morning to work)
Sam has been	**in Canada**	**since April**.	
We arrived	**at the airport**	**early**.	

Study these examples. *Time* goes after *place:*

- I'm going **to Paris** **on Monday** . (*not* I'm going on Monday to Paris)
- They have lived **in the same house** **for a long time** .
- Don't be late. Make sure you're **here** **by 8 o'clock** .
- Sarah gave me a lift **home** **after the party** .
- You really shouldn't go **to bed** **so late** .

It is often possible to put *time* at the beginning of the sentence:

- **On Monday** I'm going to Paris.
- **Every morning** Ben walks to work.

Some time words (for example, **always/never/usually**) go with the verb in the middle of the sentence. See Unit 110.

Word order in questions → **Units 49–50** Adjective order → **Unit 99** Word order 2 → **Unit 110**

Unit
110 Word order 2: adverbs with the verb

A

Some adverbs (for example, **always**, **also**, **probably**) go with the verb in the middle of a sentence:

- Helen **always drives** to work.
- We were feeling very tired and we **were also** hungry.
- The concert **will probably be cancelled**.

B

If the verb is one word (**drives/fell/cooked** etc.), the adverb goes *before* the verb:

	adverb	*verb*	
Helen	always	**drives**	to work.
I	almost	**fell**	as I was going down the stairs.

- I cleaned the house and **also cooked** the dinner. (*not* cooked also)
- Lucy **hardly ever watches** television and **rarely reads** newspapers.
- 'Shall I give you my address?' 'No, I **already have** it.'

Note that these adverbs (**always/often/also** etc.) go before **have to** ... :

- Joe never phones me. I **always have** to phone him. (*not* I have always to phone)

But adverbs go *after* **am/is/are/was/were**:

- We were feeling very tired and we **were also** hungry.
- Why are you always late? You**'re never** on time.
- The traffic **isn't usually** as bad as it was this morning.

C

If the verb is two or more words (for example, **can remember** / **doesn't eat** / **will be cancelled**), the adverb usually goes *after the first verb* (**can/doesn't/will** etc.):

	verb 1	*adverb*	*verb 2*	
I	**can**	**never**	**remember**	her name.
Clare	**doesn't**	**often**	**eat**	meat.
	Are you	**definitely**	**going**	away next week?
The concert	**will**	**probably**	**be**	cancelled.

- You**'ve always been** very kind to me.
- Jack can't cook. He **can't even boil** an egg.
- **Do** you **still work** for the same company?
- The house **was only built** a year ago and it**'s already falling** down.

Note that **probably** goes before a negative (**isn't/won't** etc.). So we say:

- I **probably won't see** you. *or* I will **probably not** see you. (*not* I won't probably)

D

We also use **all** and **both** in these positions:

- We **all felt** ill after the meal. (*not* we felt all ill)
- My parents **are both** teachers. (*not* my parents both are teachers)
- Sarah and Jane **have both applied** for the job.
- We **are all going** out tonight.

E

Sometimes we use **is/will/did** etc. instead of repeating part of a sentence (see Unit 51):

- Tom says he isn't clever, but I think he **is**. (= he **is clever**)

When we do this, we put **always/never** etc. *before* the verb:

- He always says he won't be late, but he **always is**. (= he **is always** late)
- I've never done it and I **never will**. (= I **will never** do it)

Word order 1 → **Unit 109**