

appendix 6 word order

This section summarises the most important rules of word order that you can find in other parts of the book.

sentences

The basic word order of English sentences is SUBJECT – VERB – OBJECT.

I like jazz. (NOT I jazz like.)

questions

In questions we usually put an auxiliary verb before the subject.

Did you see my email? (NOT Saw you my email ...?) Must you go?

For more details, see pages 103–107.

This does not usually happen with **indirect questions**.

*I asked her **what she wanted**. (NOT I asked her what did she want.)*

For more details, see page 287.

adjectives

Adjectives usually go before, not after, nouns.

*an **interesting book** (NOT a book interesting)*

Adjectives can go after *be*, *seem* and similar verbs.

*I think he **is unhappy**.*

For more details, see pages 215–219.

adverbs

Different adverbs can go in different places in a sentence.

***Yesterday** I stopped work early. I've **just** seen Peter. She's talking **very strangely**.*

They do **not** usually go **between the verb and the object**.

*I **bought some shoes yesterday**. (NOT I bought yesterday some shoes.)*

*You speak **English very well**. (NOT You speak very well English.)*

For more details, see pages 220–222.

prepositions

Prepositions often go **at the ends of questions**, especially in spoken English.

*Who do you work **for**? Where did you get that **from**?*

For more details, see page 107.

Prepositions can also go **at the ends of passive clauses** and (especially in spoken English) **at the ends of relative clauses**.

*That child needs **to be spoken to**.*

*The team **that I play for** has won its last six matches.*

For more details, see pages 98 and 273.

exclamations

In exclamations, the adjective, adverb or object comes at the beginning of the sentence, just after *how* or *what*.

How cold it is!** (NOT How it is cold!) **What a stupid mistake I made!

For more details, see page 145.

phrasal verbs

The objects of **phrasal verbs** (but not prepositional verbs) can often go **between the two parts of the verb**.

*Shall I **switch the TV off**? (OR Shall I switch off the TV?)*

Pronoun objects always go between the two parts of a phrasal verb.

*I **switched it off**. (NOT I switched off it.)*

For more details, see pages 150–151.

ago

Ago follows an expression of time.

She went to bed **two hours ago**. (NOT ... *ago two hours*)

enough

Enough usually goes **before nouns** but **after adjectives and adverbs**.

We haven't got **enough milk**. (NOT ... *milk enough*)

Is your coffee **hot enough**? (NOT ... *enough hot*?) I didn't study **hard enough**.

so do I etc

Note the word order in **so do I, so am I** etc (see page 312).

My sister sings in a choir, and **so do I**. (NOT ... *so I do*.)