

1. Academic writing



Source: <https://homeliteracyblueprint.com/illustrate-sentence/>

What is a sentence?

A sentence consists of a word or a group of words that mostly convey a cohesive and coherent idea through the use of a subject and a verb or just a verb. The length of a sentence varies based on the writer's skill in structuring it, but it is generally advised to limit sentences to *30 words*. Sentences exceeding this, such as those with around 75 words, often suffer from grammatical and clarity issues, both of which are crucial for effective communication. Every sentence should begin with a capital letter and conclude with a period. However, as Nordquist (2024) notes, sentences can also end with a question mark or exclamation point. Additionally, checking spelling and grammar is essential in academic writing.

Check out this video to reinforce the idea of what a sentence is.

<https://youtu.be/TeiuG81mbII>

In the same vein, (Nordquist, 2024) suggests that there are four basic sentence structures such as a *simple sentence*, a *compound sentence*, a *complex sentence*, and a *compound-complex sentence*.

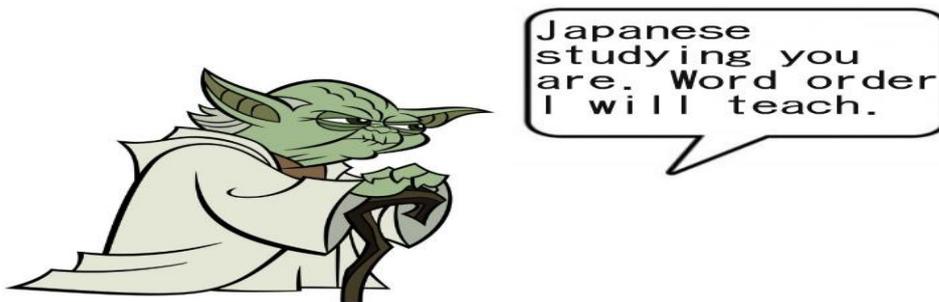
Writing techniques for constructing a sentence

There are many writing techniques for constructing an effective sentence in English. One of those techniques is **Word order**, and the second one is **Valency**. Basically, the first technique arranges sentences more naturally, as a native speaker would construct it. The word

order on sentence structure emphasizes the usage of Wh question words like *who*, *what*, *where*, *when* and *why*. In contrast, the **Valency** technique centers its structure around a verb's capacity to convey a logical argument, involving nouns and pronouns. On this guide, we will focus on exploring these two techniques in depth for structuring sentences effectively.

In the **Word Order** technique, **who** and **what** represent the fundamental elements of a sentence. Specifically, **who** refers to subject(s), animal(s), object(s), or idea(s), while **what** needs a verb in any tense and includes an object if required by the verb. Additionally, the writer may expand the information of their sentence by incorporating **where** to specify place and **when** to designate time, intensifying further with **how** to describe manner or method, and **why** to explain reasons for actions or events. These wh question words—where, when, how, and why—are optional in a sentence, depending on the writer's intention to elaborate their sentence. For instance, a sentence could combine who, what, +and where. or who, + what, + how, +and why. In a nutshell, a sentence becomes effective when it addresses these wh questions, with *who* and *what* serving as essential components.

1.1.1 MODELING WORD ORDER TECHNIQUE



Source: <https://iggyjapanese.wordpress.com/2016/04/26/word-order-i-will-teach/>

WORD ORDER ON SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Who and **what** (are the **compulsory** elements in a sentence).

Where, **when**, **how** and **why** (can be **optional** in a sentence)

Note; if there are more elements of **where**, **when**, **how** or **why**. They are organized from the specific or the smaller information to the bigger one.

WORD ORDER ON SENTENCE STRUCTURE

| N° Sentence | WHO | WHAT | WHERE | WHEN | HOW | WHY |
|-------------|--|---|----------------|--------------|------------------|---|
| | Subject(s) Animal(s) Plant(s) Thing(s) Idea(s) | A conjugated verb in any tense. (Keeps an object together if the verb requires an object) | Place | Time | Manner/ Way | Reason |
| 1 | Steve | called | | this morning | | To cancel his appointment with his dentist. |
| 2 | Claire | ate dinner | on a train | yesterday | | Because she was there. |
| 3 | John | spoke to me | | | | |
| 4 | A bus | comes | to the station | | | To drop off some passengers. |
| 5 | A bus | hit a tree | | | With great force | |
| 6 | Jari | practices Spanish | | | passionately | |
| 7 | | Come | Here | now | | |

If all the responses from each square are taken outside of those squares, the sentences will appear as follows.

1.- Steve called.

1.1 Steve called this morning.

1.1.1 Steve called me this morning to cancel his appointment with his dentist.

2.- Claire ate dinner.

2.1 Claire ate dinner on a train.

2.2 Claire ate dinner on a train yesterday.

2.3 Claire ate dinner on a train yesterday because she was there.

3.- John spoke to me.

4.- A bus comes.

4.1 A bus comes to the station.

4.2 A bus comes to the station to drop off some passengers

5.- A bus hit a tree.

5.1 A bus hit a tree with great force.

6.- Jari practices Spanish.

6.1 Jari practices Spanish passionately.

7.- Come! (The subject is implicit you, because it is an imperative sentence: *you* come)

7.1 Come here.

7.2 Come here now.

More examples in colors.

| WHO | WHAT | WHERE | WHEN | HOW | WHY |
|------|------|--|------|-----|-----|
| They | live | In a flat (1) In a big city (2) In India (3) | | | |

Example: They live in a flat in a big city in India.

| WHO | WHAT | WHERE | WHEN | HOW | WHY |
|------|------|-------|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| They | Came | | at 10:30 on Tuesday last week | | |

Example: They came at 10:30 on Tuesday last week.

| WHO | WHAT | WHERE | WHEN | HOW | WHY |
|--------|-------------------|-------|------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Joseph | Wrote an email | | | furiously | Because his boss is unfair. |

Example: Joseph wrote an email furiously because his boss is unfair.

Analyze whether the sentences below are written according to Word order technique. If they do not, arrange any incorrect sentence based on the technique taught. Verify your answers at the end of the page.

1.- We two years ago bought this car.

2.- They contact everyone because it is easier by phone.

3.- She went to town to post her letters this morning.

4.-He goes by train to work.

5.-We drove at the weekend to the seaside.

6.- Sam ate slowly his meal.

7.- She is living right now in an apartment with her sister.

Corrected sentences according to word order technique

- 1.- We bought this car two years ago.
- 2.- They contact everyone by phone because it is easier.
- 3.- She went to town this morning to post her letters.
- 4.- He goes by train to work.
- 5.- We drove to the seaside at the weekend.
- 6.- Sam ate his meal slowly
- 7.- She is living with her sister in an apartment right now.

Practice the Word order technique in pairs. Work with a partner to fill each square with information and construct sentences. Include information from the reading article: **“Eating well, how can it be? Americans gain weight... while the French stay thin”** mindfully page 68, from Topnotch book 2 file.

WORD ORDER ON SENTENCE STRUCTURE

| N° Sentence | WHO Subject(s) Animal(s) Plant(s) Thing(s) Idea(s) | WHAT A Verb any tense. (Keeps an object together if the verb requires an object | WHERE place | WHEN Time | HOW Manner/ Way | WHY Reason |
|----------------|---|---|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | |