

Basic Sentence Patterns

English sentences are classified into five patterns. This classification is based on the functional elements of sentences.

A knowledge of basic sentence structure is necessary to write well once the basic patterns have been learned, the study of more complicated patterns will be easier.

Pattern I- S-P-(A): The verb is intransitive, without a direct object

Mariacooperatedvoluntarily

S P A

Heprays everyday

S PA

Studentsshould studyevery night

S P A

Shereadssilently

S P A

Pattern II- S-P-SC: The verb is linking verb and it renames the subject.

Teachers areour second parents

S P SC

My motherisa teacher.

S P SC

Anneisthe boss

S P SC

The girlshould bethe captain

S P SC

Pattern III- S-P-DO: The verb is transitive and it requires both a subject and a direct object

Someone ate my sandwich

S P DO

Here read the dictionary for pleasure

S P DO A

Pattern IV- S-P-IO-DO: The verb is ditransitive-it means it can take two objects

Liz gave the children gifts.

S P IO DO

I teach the students Syntax.

S P IO DO

Mom will paint Gabriela picture

S P IO DO

He surprised his sister with a reward.

S P IO DO

Pattern V- S-P-DO-OC

The verb is complex transitive verb

An object complement is a noun, pronoun or adjective which follows a direct object and renames it or tells what the direct object has become.

He called the cashier beautiful

S P DO OC

The child made her mother happy

S P DO OC

She cut her hair short

S P DO OC