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Word Order in English

VERB + OBJECT

The most common order of words in sentences is as follows:

Subject + Verb + Object

Examples:

- Sally speaks English.
- · John reads the newspaper.

PLACE & TIME

In English, the place is usually mentioned before the time.

Examples:

- I go to the supermarket every Saturday.
 (NOT: I go every Saturday to the supermarket)
- Bill has lived in London for 10 years.
 (NOT: Bill has lived for 10 years in London)

ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY

Adverbs of frequency such as always, never, sometimes, often, rarely, etc. generally go before the verb

Examples:

- Susan often goes shopping.
- I never gamble.
- They always sleep early.

However, with the verb to be, they go after the verb.

Examples:

- She is rarely late.
- · He is never home before dark.

They can also go between two verbs.

Examples:

- I will always remember my brother.
- I have never been to Japan.

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