

Unit 1: THE BASIC SENTENCE

Every sentence has a subject and a verb.

Subject and verb

works is not a sentence because we do not learn who or what works; there is a verb, but no subject.

John is not a sentence; there is no verb.

John works is a sentence; there is a subject (**John**) and a verb (**works**).

John, the paramedic is not a sentence; there is no verb. We do not learn how John and the paramedic go together.

Here are some sentences:

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>VERB</i>	
John	is	a paramedic.
John	works	with paramedics.
John	is talking	to a paramedic.
The new hospital	is	the busiest in the city.
The medical clinic on 5 th Avenue	is	very old.

Word order

If a sentence tells us something (a statement), the verb goes after the subject. If a sentence asks us something (a question), one word of the verb goes before the subject.

	<i>VERB</i>	<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>VERB</i>	
<i>STATEMENT</i>		John	is feeling	sick.
<i>QUESTION</i>	Is	John	feeling	sick?