

BASIC SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Sentences consist of two key elements: the **subject** and its **verb**. The **subject** is the main character of the sentence. It is a person, place, thing, or concept doing an action or being described. Every single sentence *must* have at least one subject. There are three main types of verbs: active verbs, passive verbs, and linking verbs.

The basic sentence structure is subject + verb. As long as you have those two items, you have a complete sentence.

BASIC SENTENCE STRUCTURE WITH DIFFERENT VERBS

1. **Active Verbs** - An active verb (AV) expresses the **subject's (S)** action and often acts upon an *object (O)*, which is a person, place, thing or concept.

Example:

S AV O

Danielle wrote this paper.

2. **Passive Verbs** – In contrast, a passive verb (PV) acts upon the **subject**. Passive verbs are easily recognizable because they are paired with “to be” verbs (am, is, are, was, were, be, being, and been).

Example:

S PV

The **paper** was written by Danielle.

3. **Linking Verb** – A linking verb (LV) connects the **subject** with either a *predicate noun (PN)* or *predicate adjective (PA)*.

Predicate Noun – a noun (person, place, thing or concept) that gives further detail about the sentence's subject.

Predicate Adjective – describing word that gives further detail about the sentence's subject.

Examples:

S LV PN

Danielle is an expert writing tutor.

S LV PA

Danielle is brilliant.

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