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).

   Examples:
   
   S   LV   PN
   Danielle is an expert writing tutor.
   
   S   LV   AN
   Danielle is brilliant.

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.